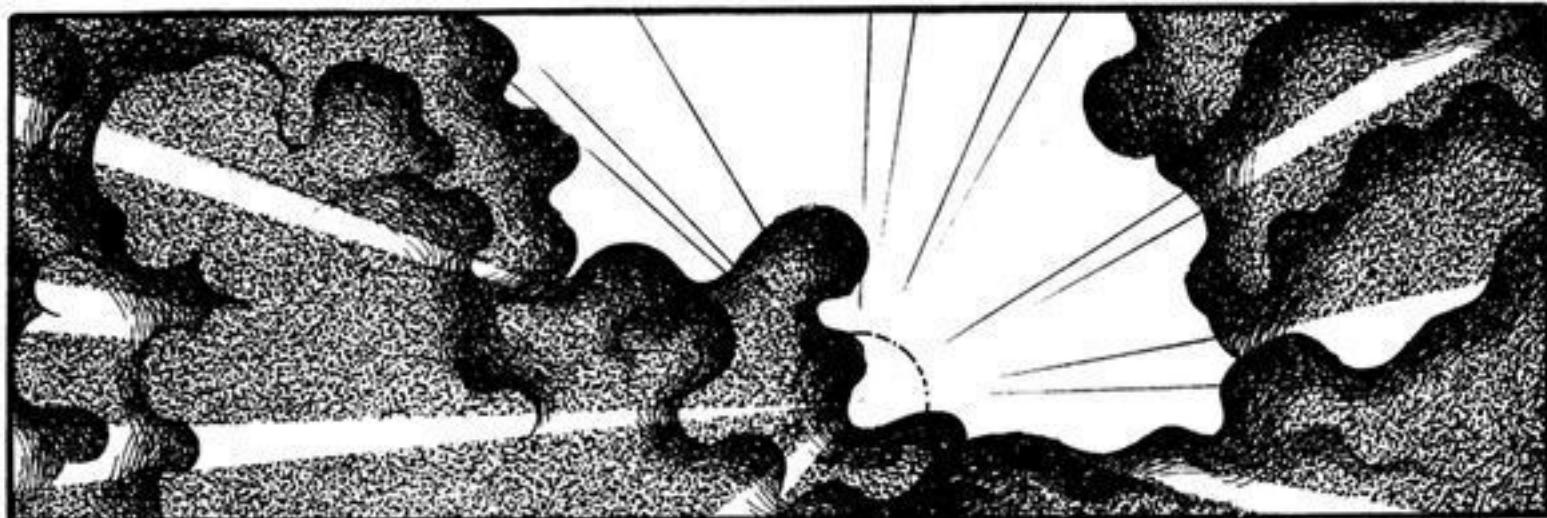
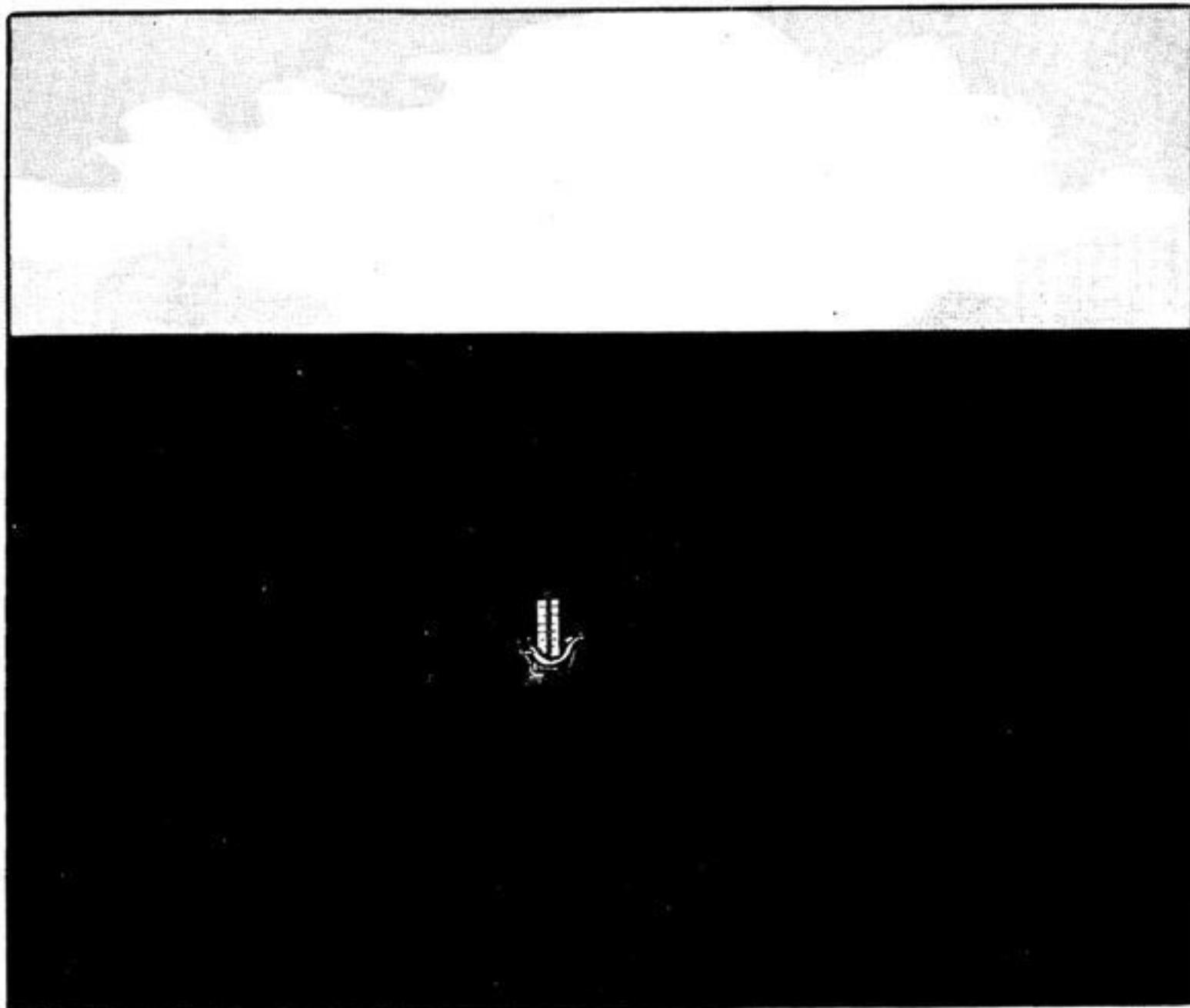
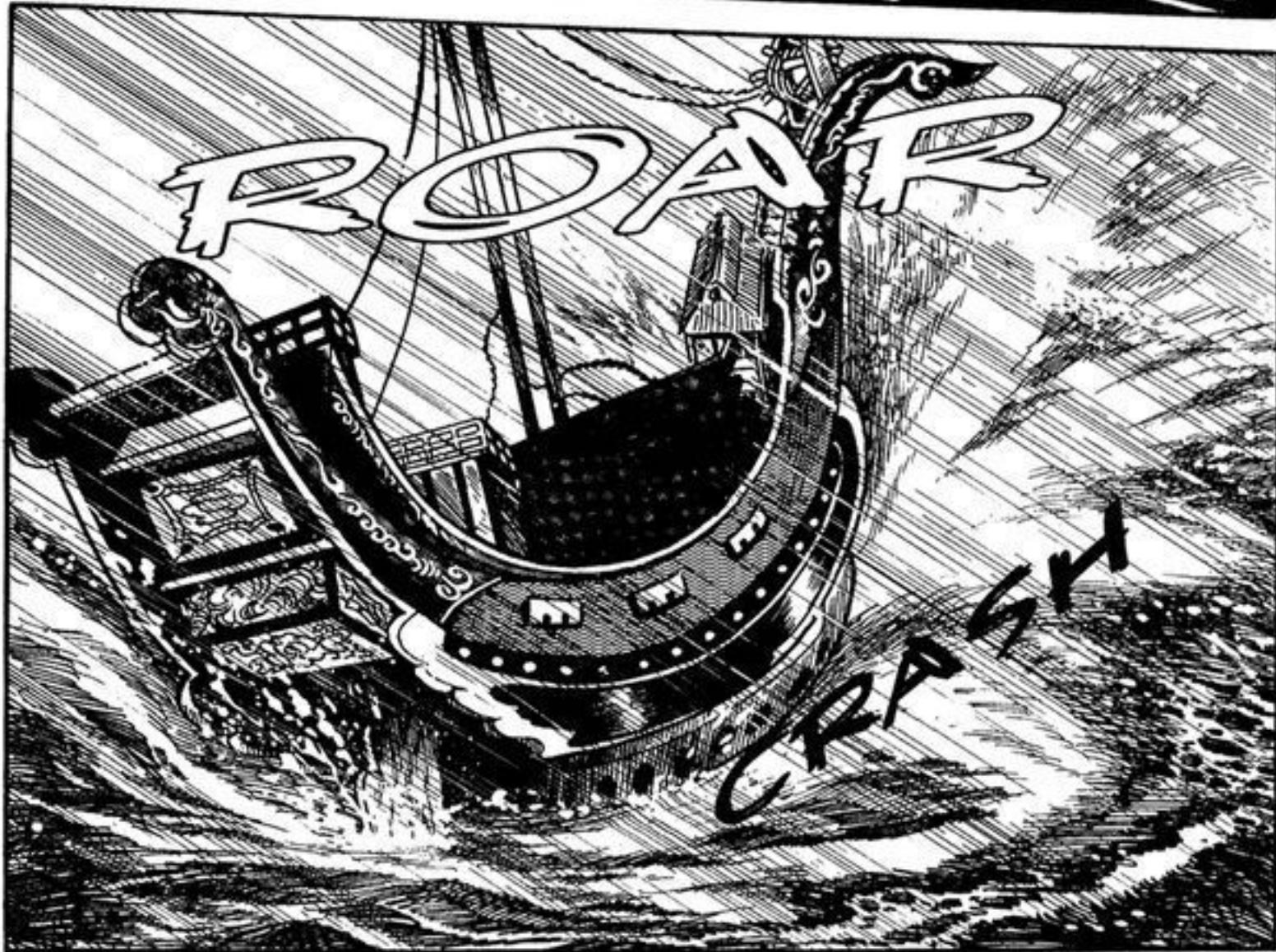
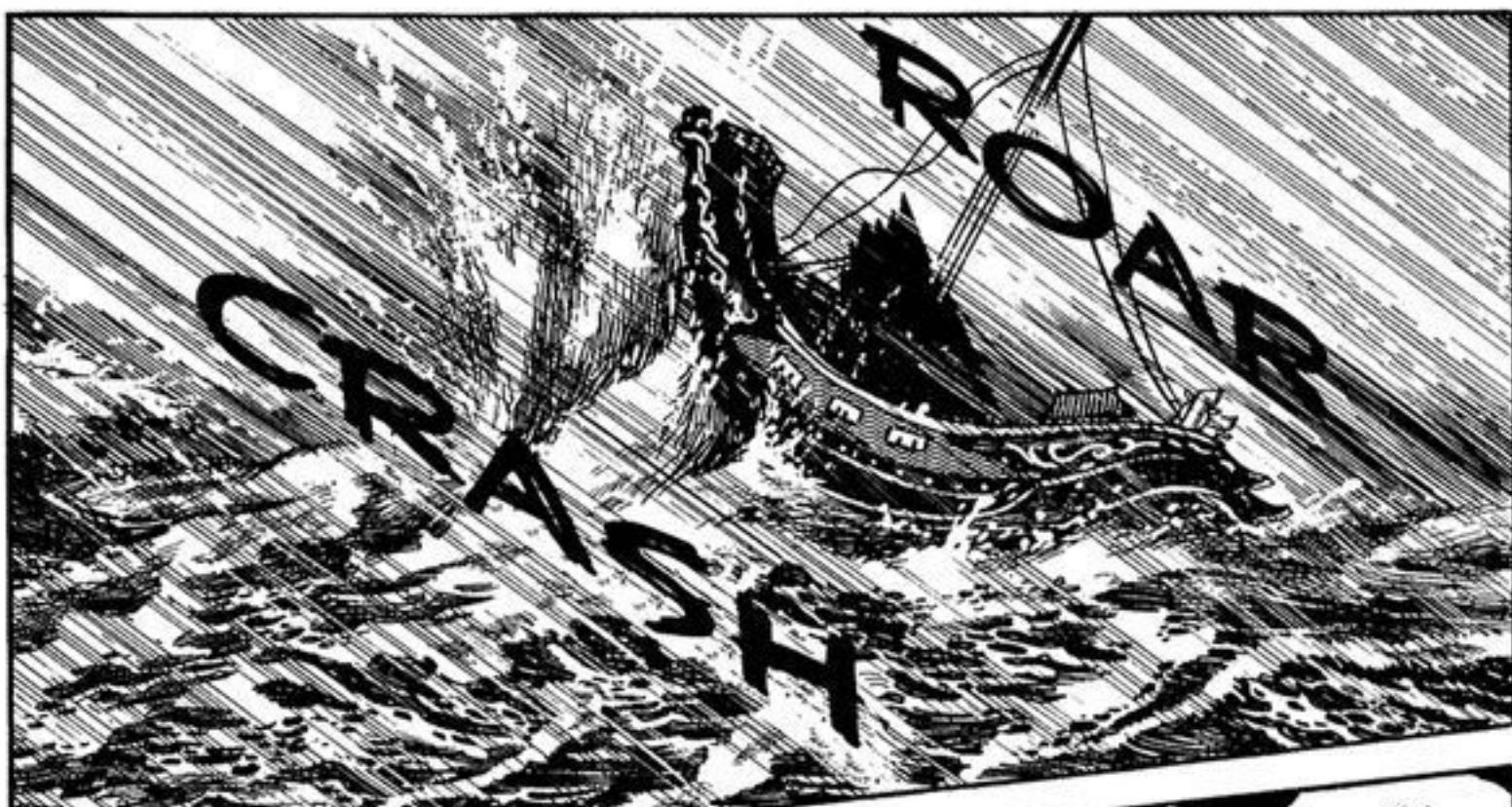
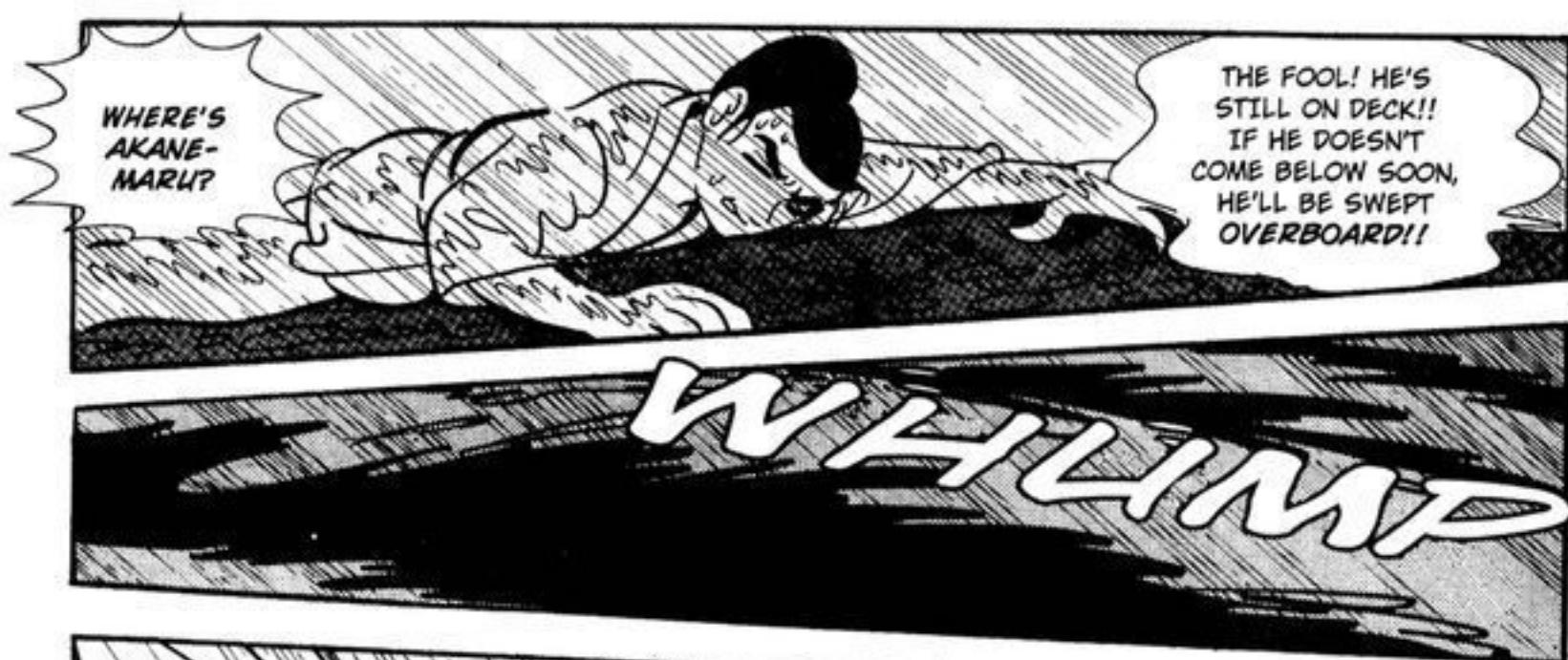


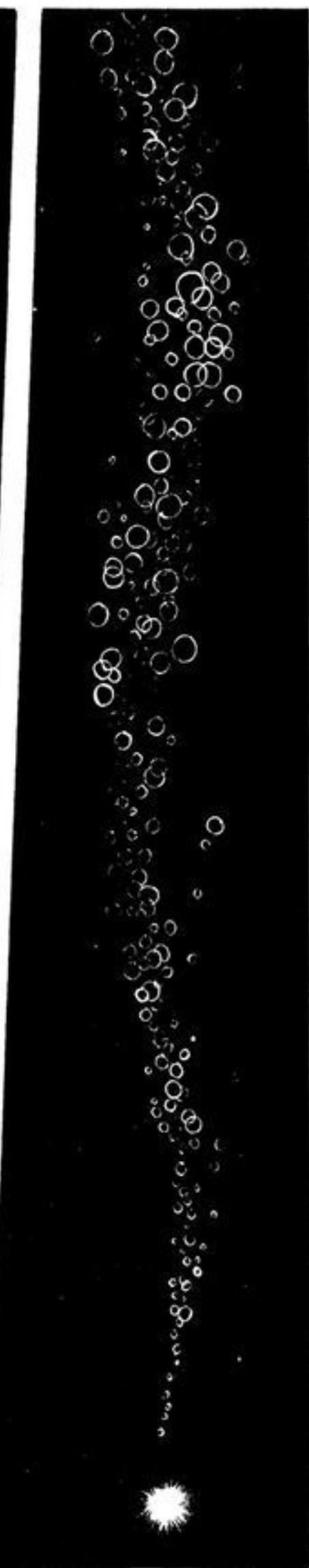
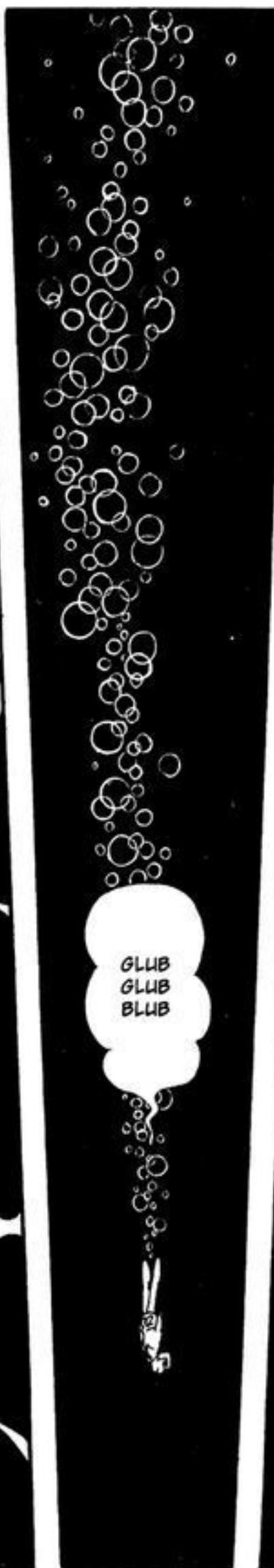


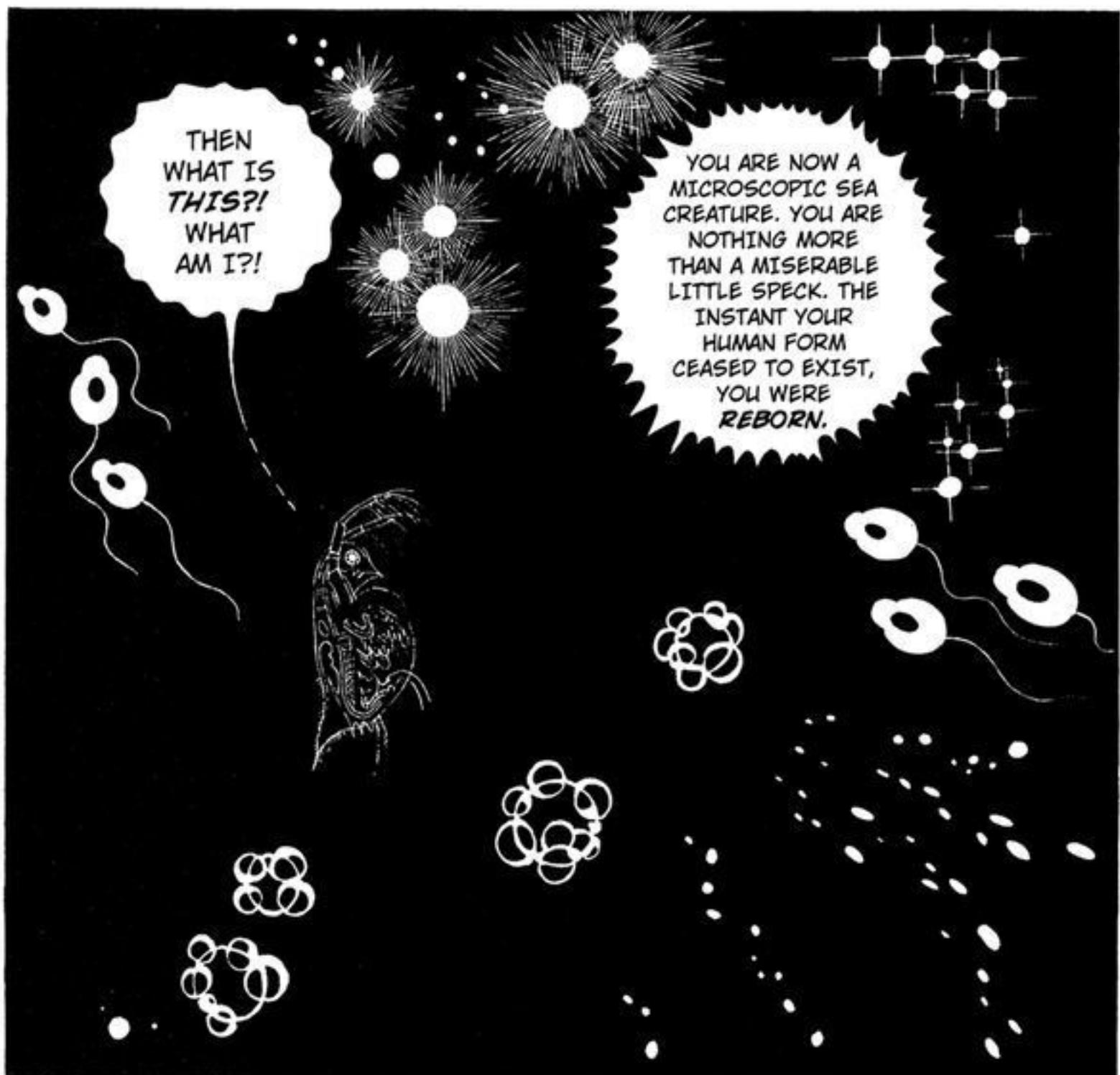
SOME SAY
SHE KNOWS
ALL THINGS
AND IS A
MESSENGER
OF BUDDHA.









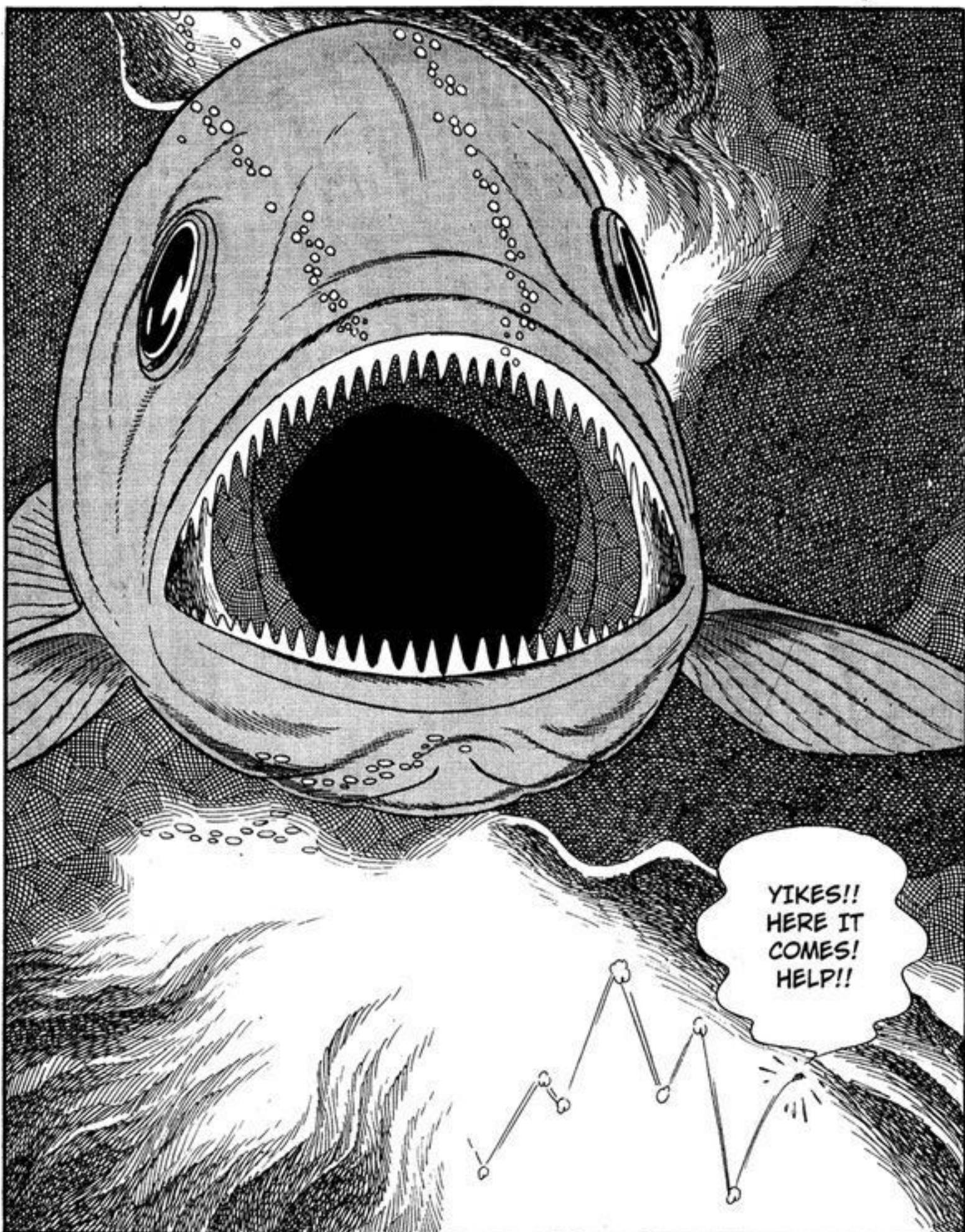


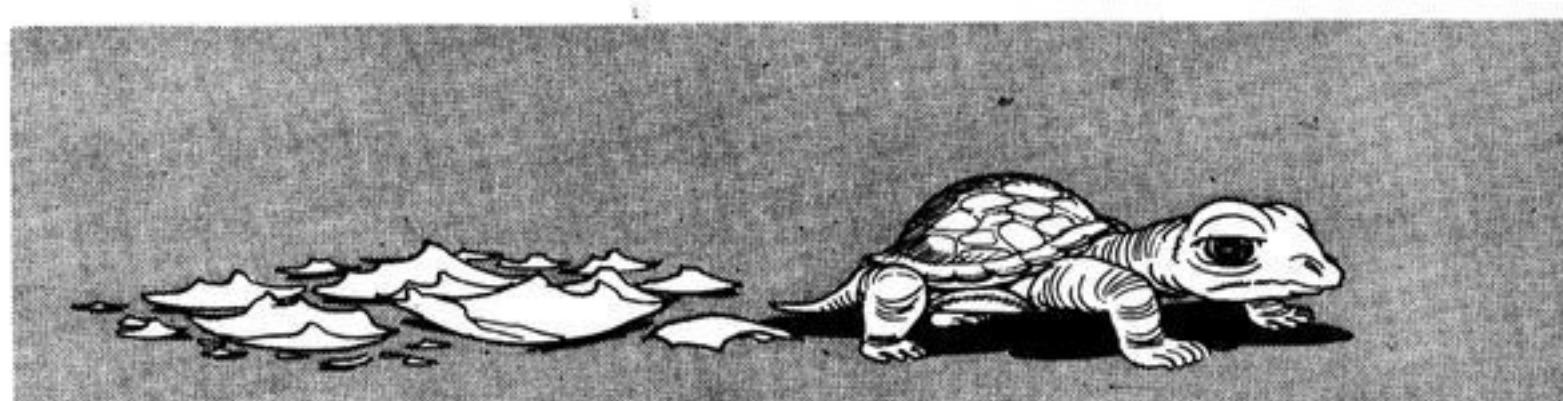
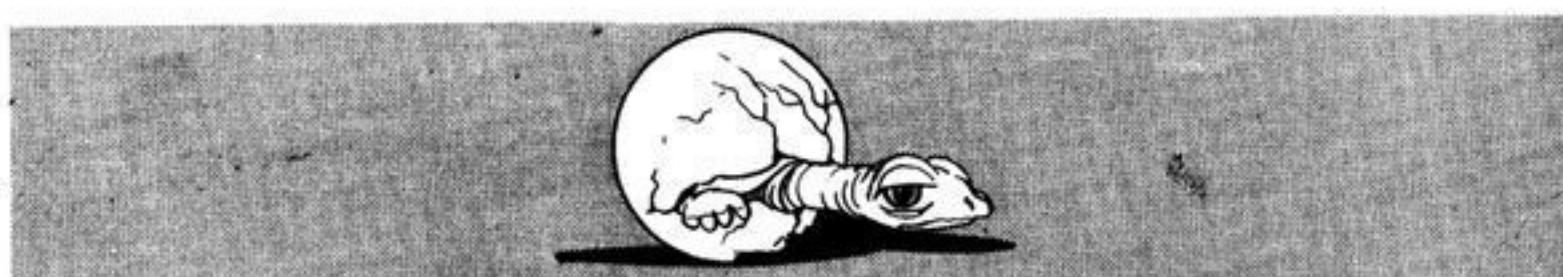
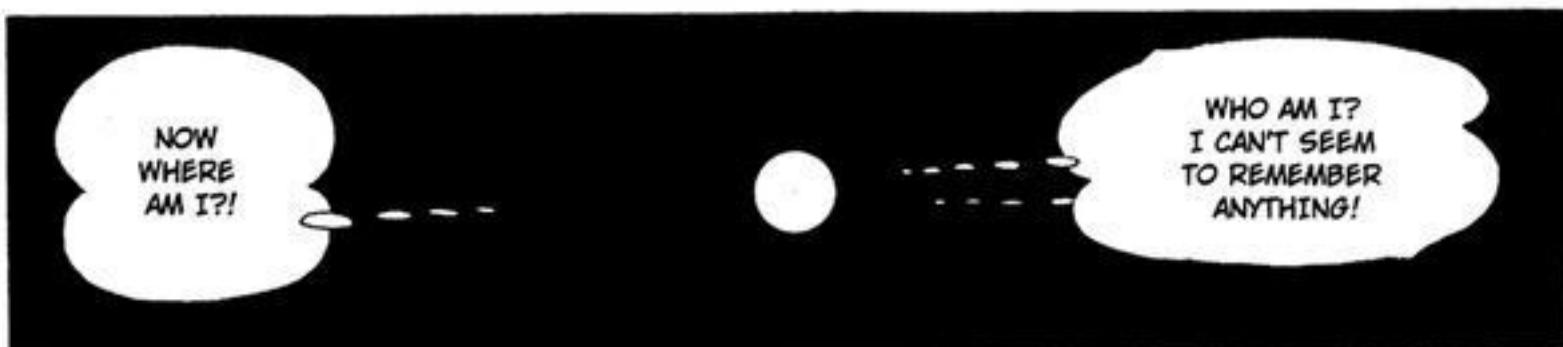
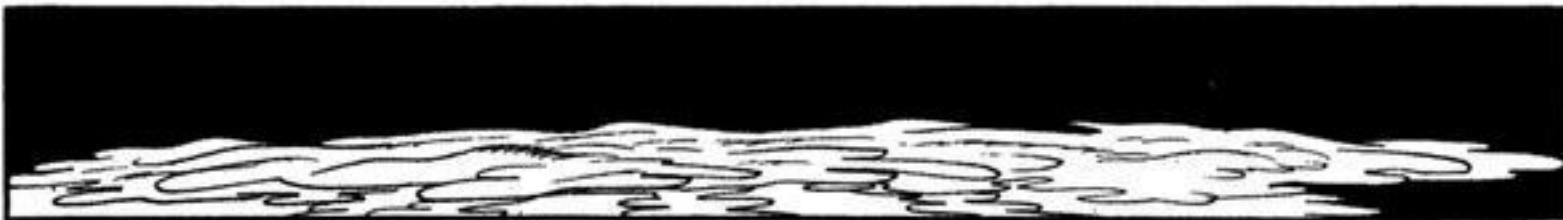
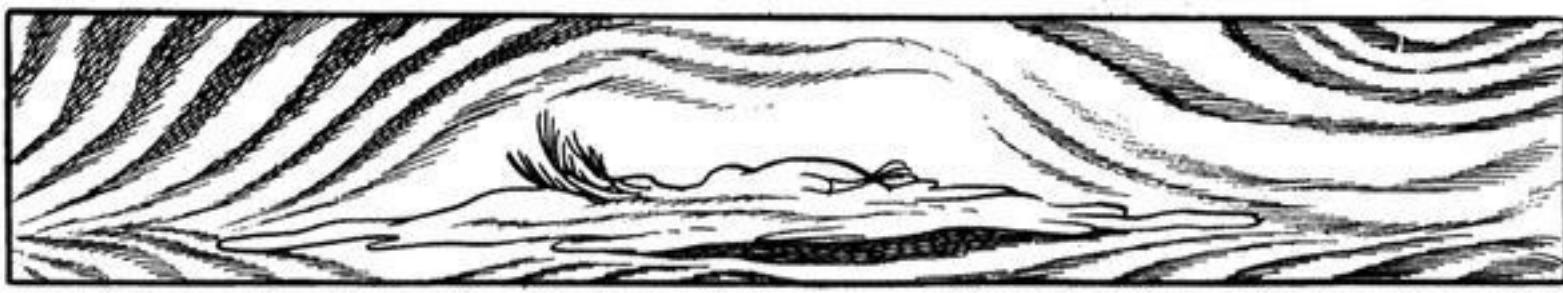
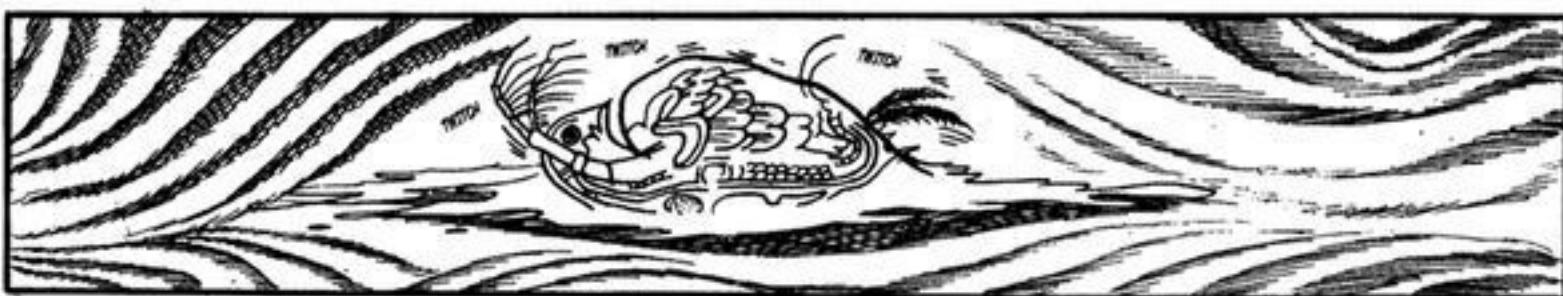
BUT WHY? WHY
HAVE I CHANGED?
WHAT HAVE I
DONE TO
DESERVE
THIS?!

YOU DIDN'T DO ANY-
THING WRONG...THIS
WAS SIMPLY YOUR
DESTINY...TO BECOME
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT...WHEN
YOUR LIFE AS A HUMAN
BEING ENDED.

NO!! I'M A
MAN!! AND I
WANT TO LIVE
LIKE ONE!

AGH...SOMETHING
HUGE IS COMING
THIS WAY! OH, NO!!
I'M GOING TO BE
SWALLOWED!!





WHAT SHOULD
I DO? FUNNY...
SEEMS LIKE I
HAD SOME
IMPORTANT
MISSION TO
FULFILL.

YOU ARE NOW A
SEA TURTLE....
BEFORE, YOU WERE
A TINY PROTOZOAN...
AND BEFORE THAT
YOU WERE A
HUMAN...DO YOU
REMEMBER?

HUMAN?....
HMM...
I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU MEAN...



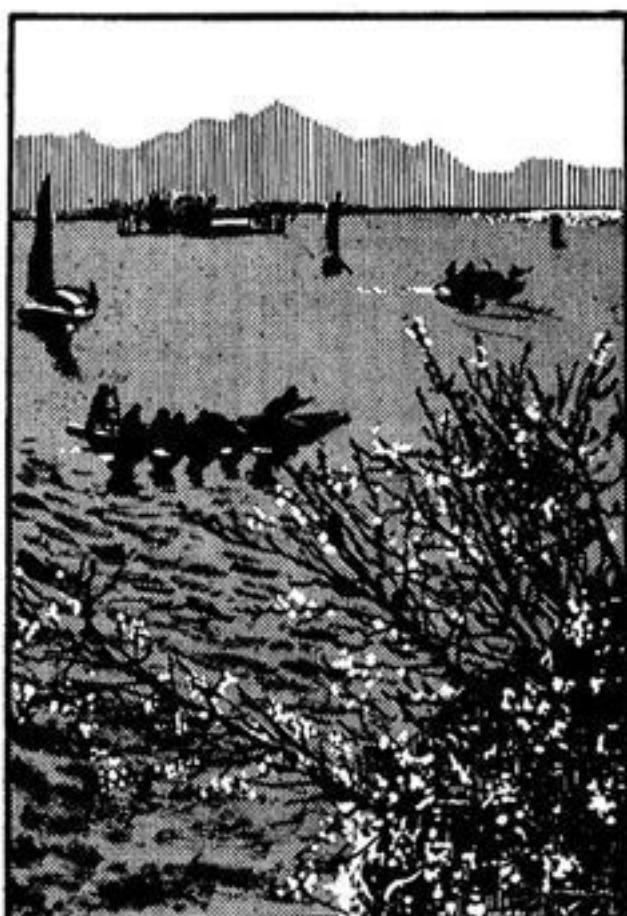
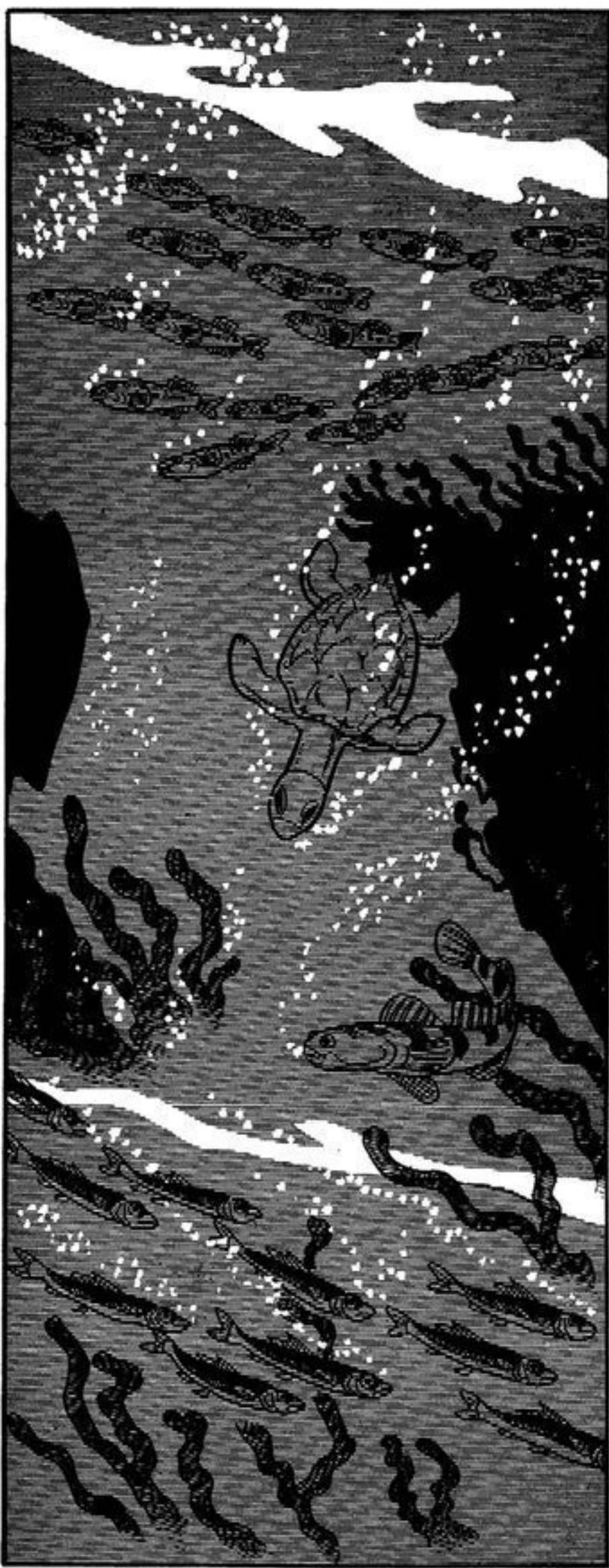
YOU
WERE
CALLED
AKANE-
MARU...

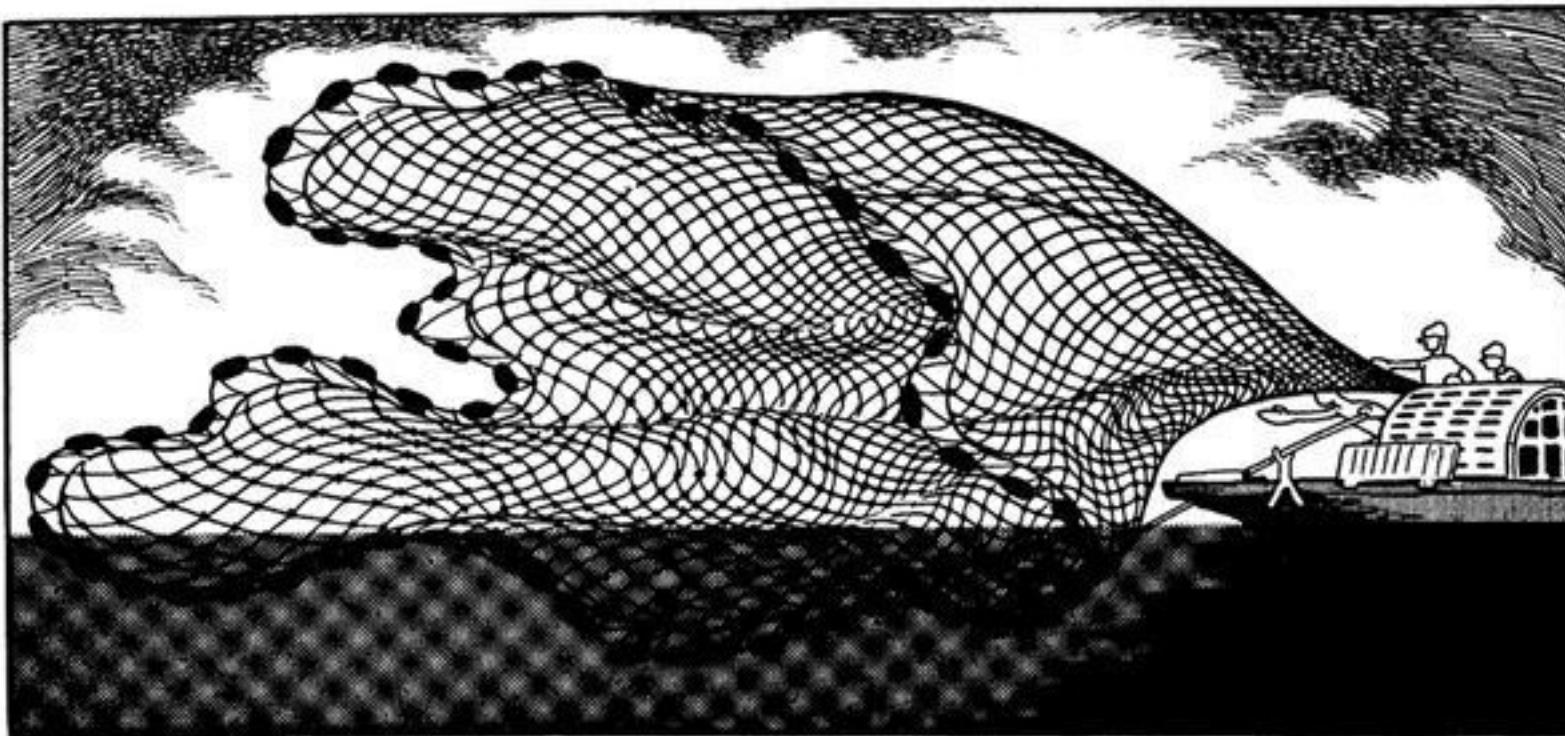
NEVER
HEARD
OF ONE
OF THOSE...

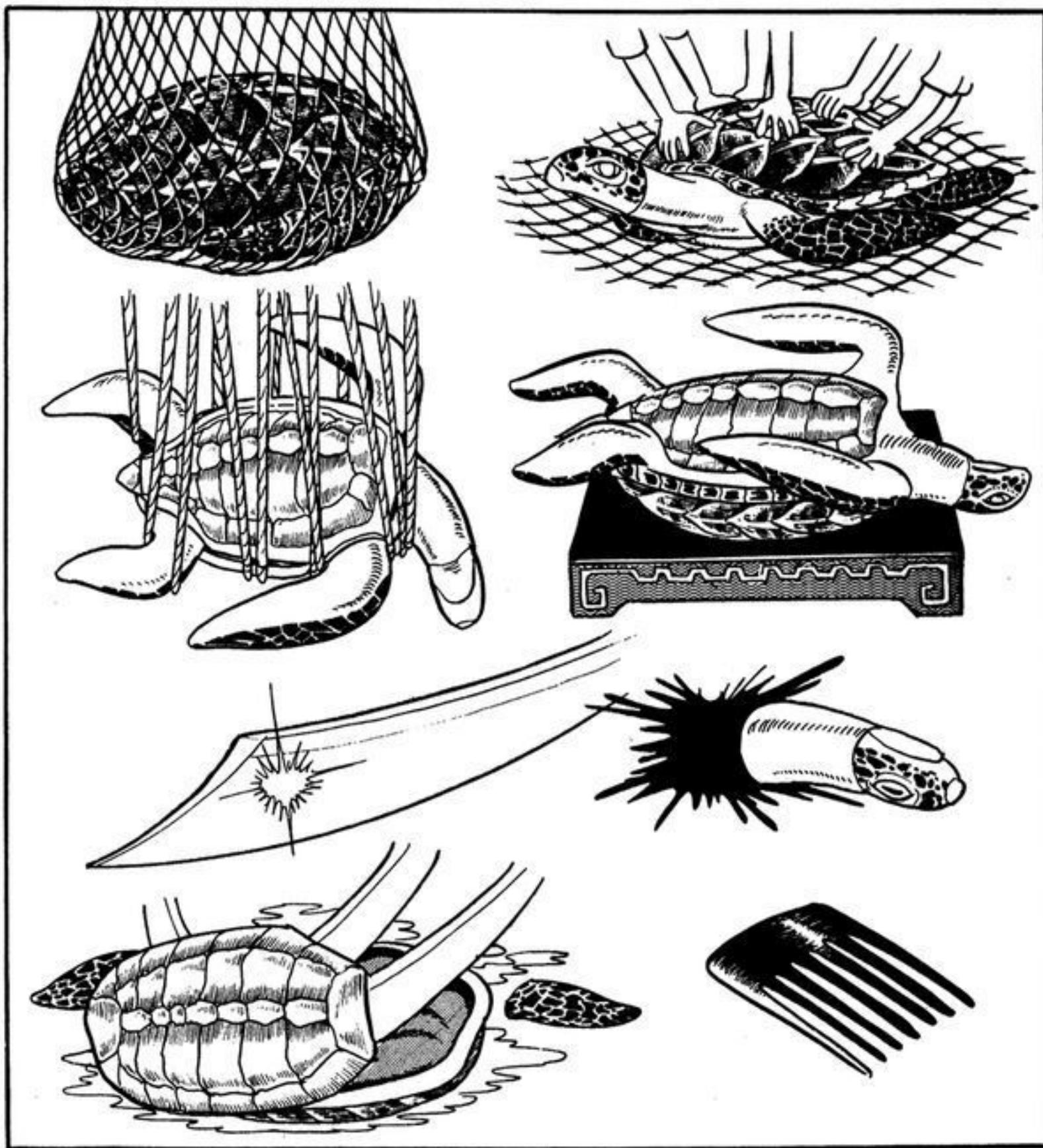


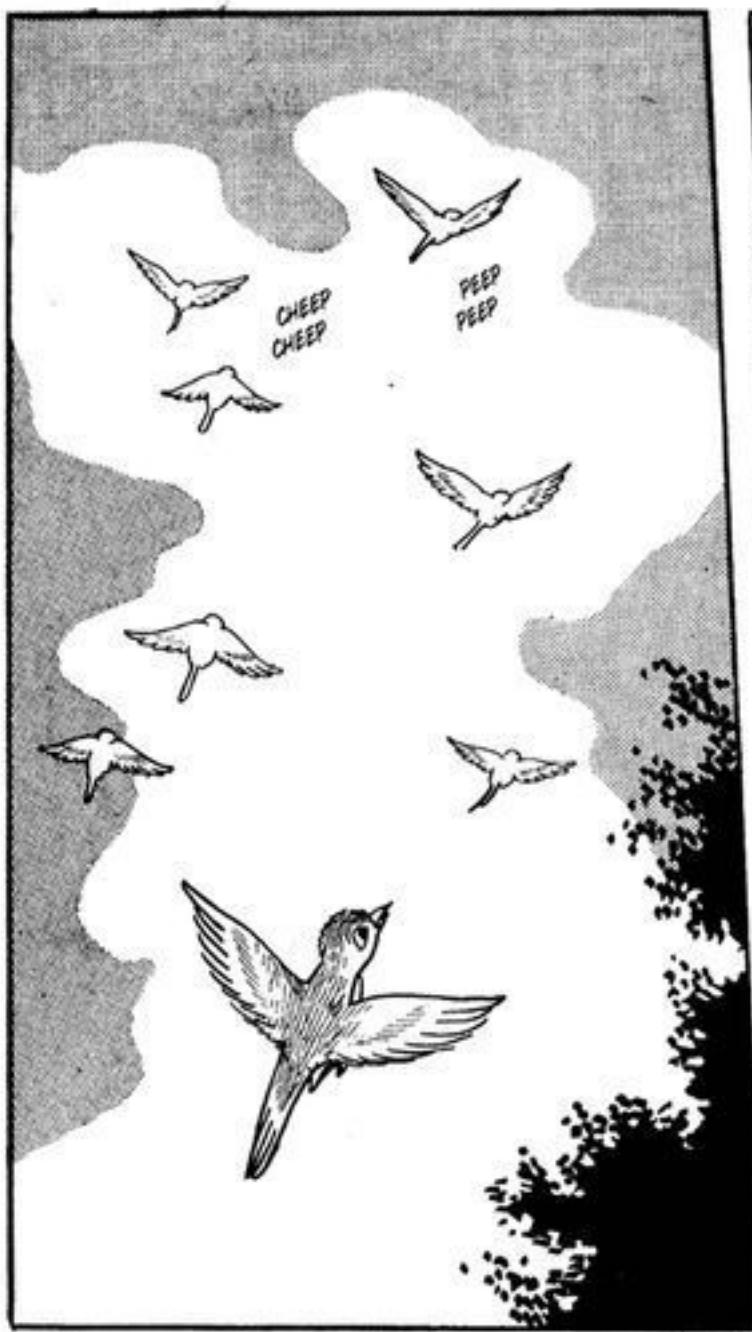
YOU ARE SWIMMING
AT THE MOUTH OF THE
NAGAE RIVER. YOU
WILL LIVE HERE IN
PEACE UNTIL YOU DIE.

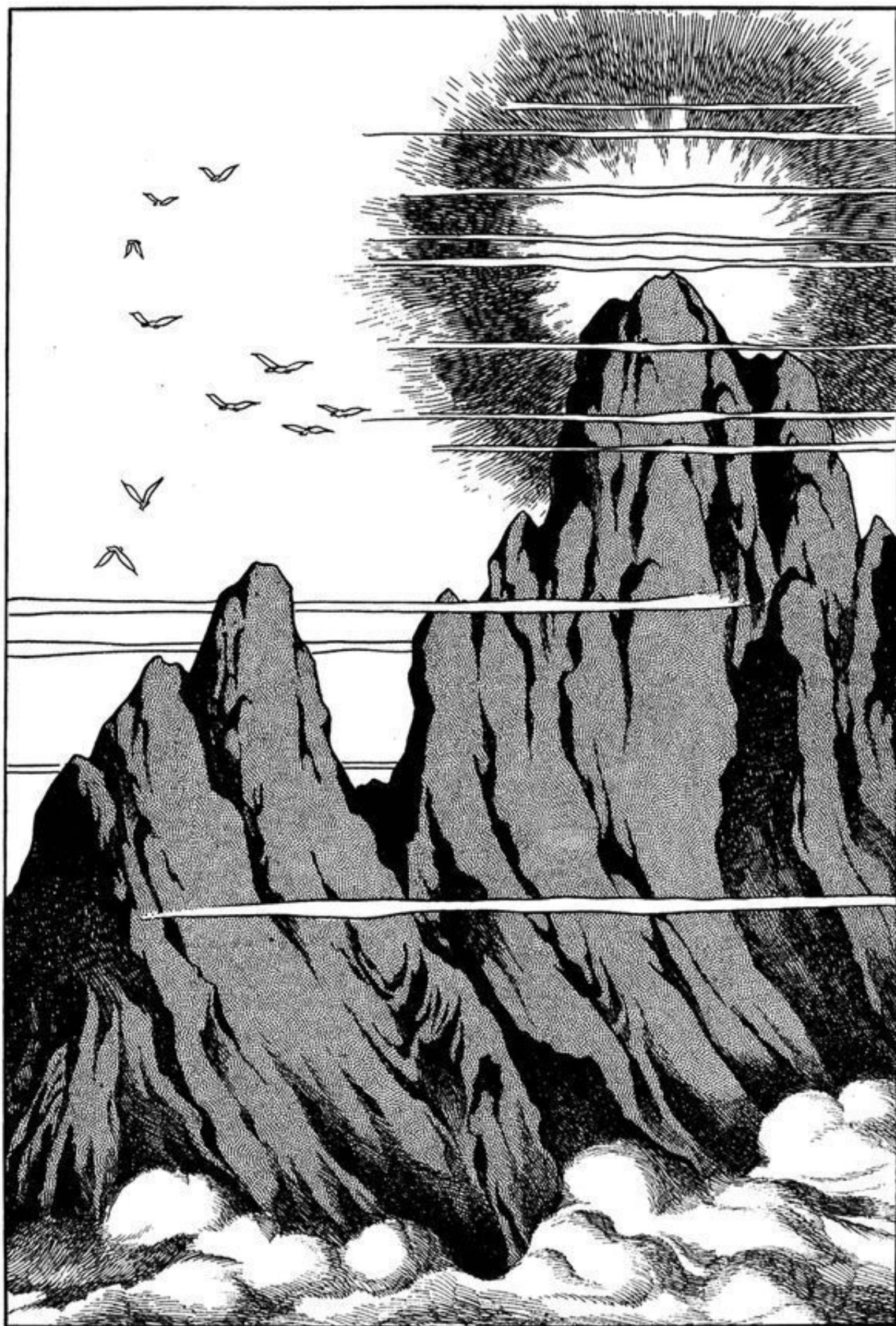










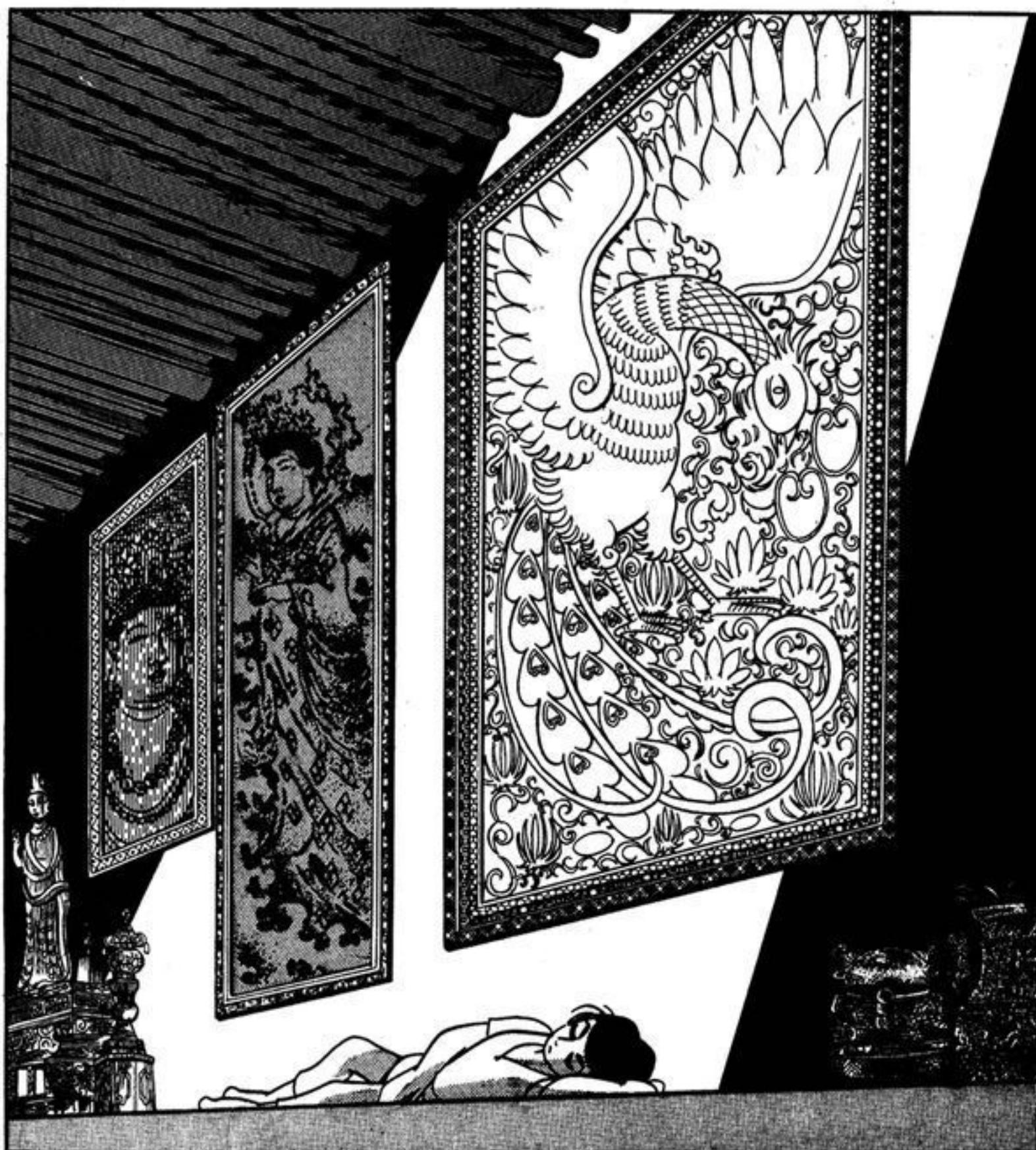


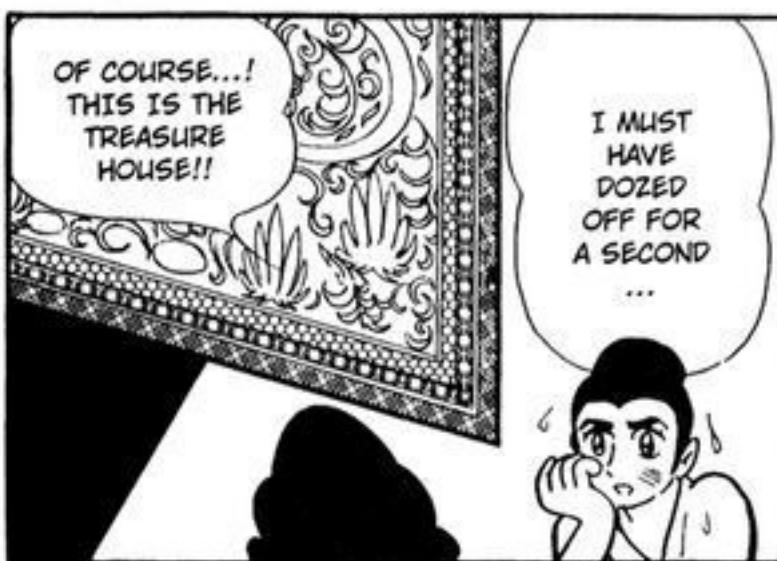












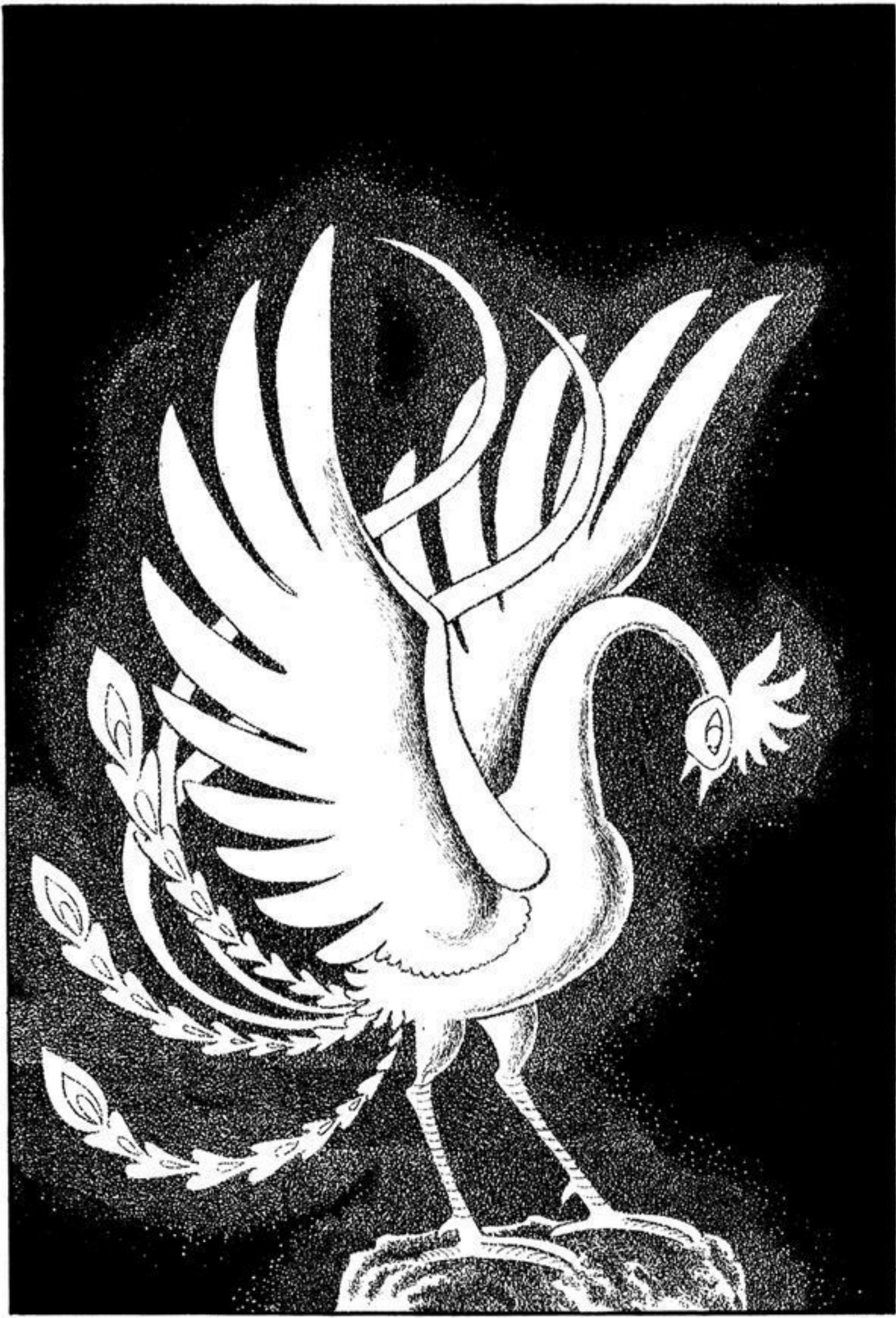
UNTIL I
BECAME A
BIRD...
AND I MET
THE
PHOENIX
...

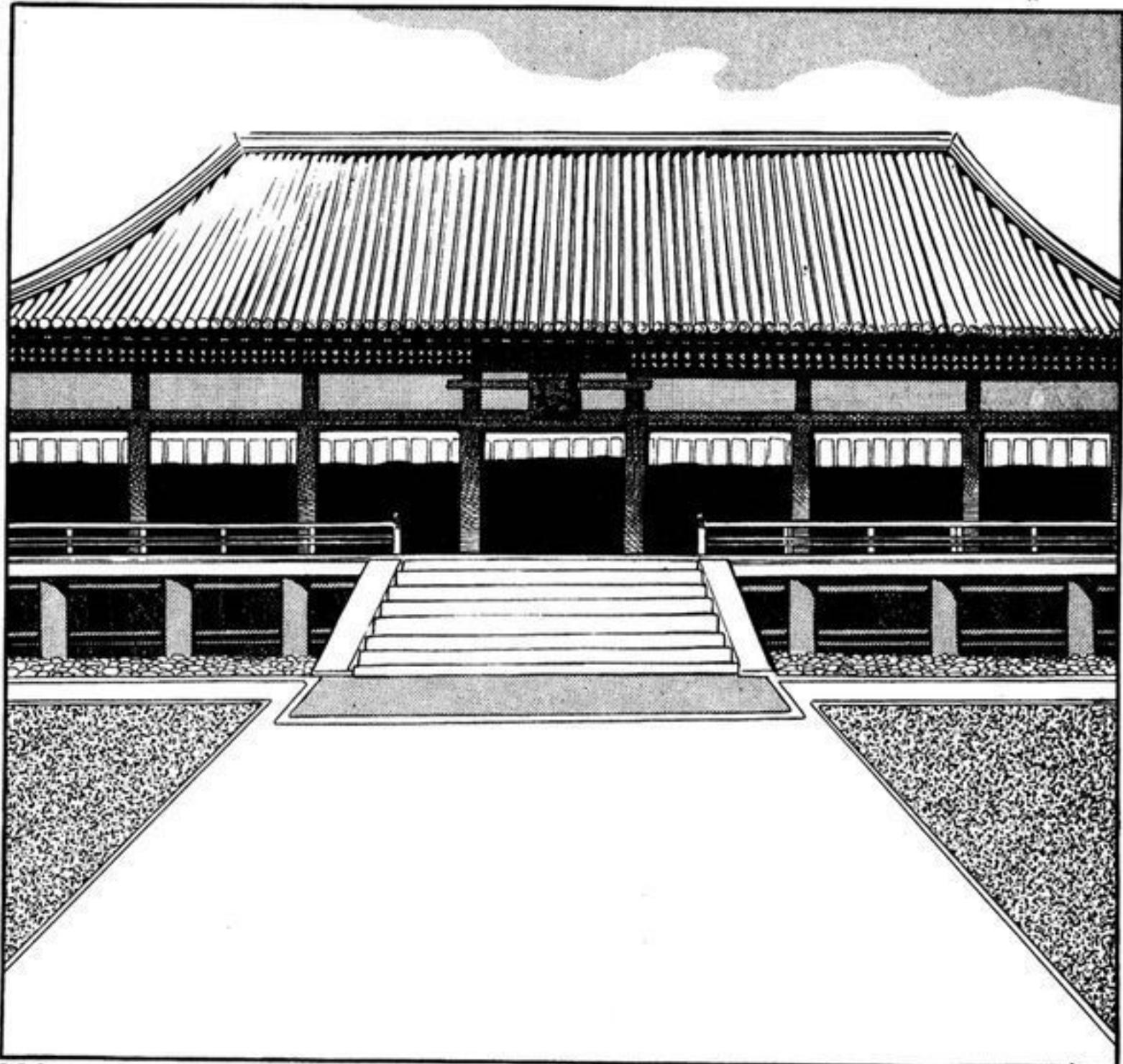
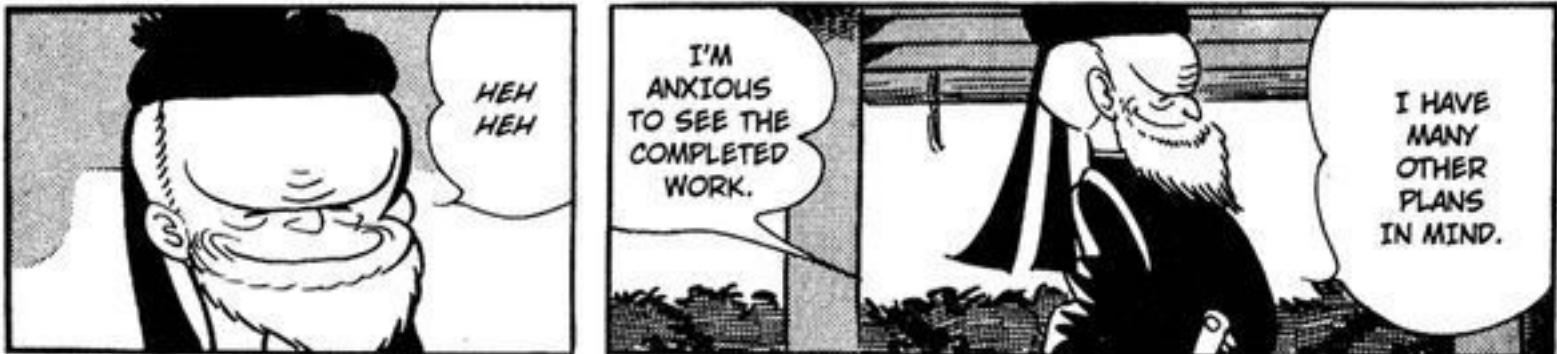


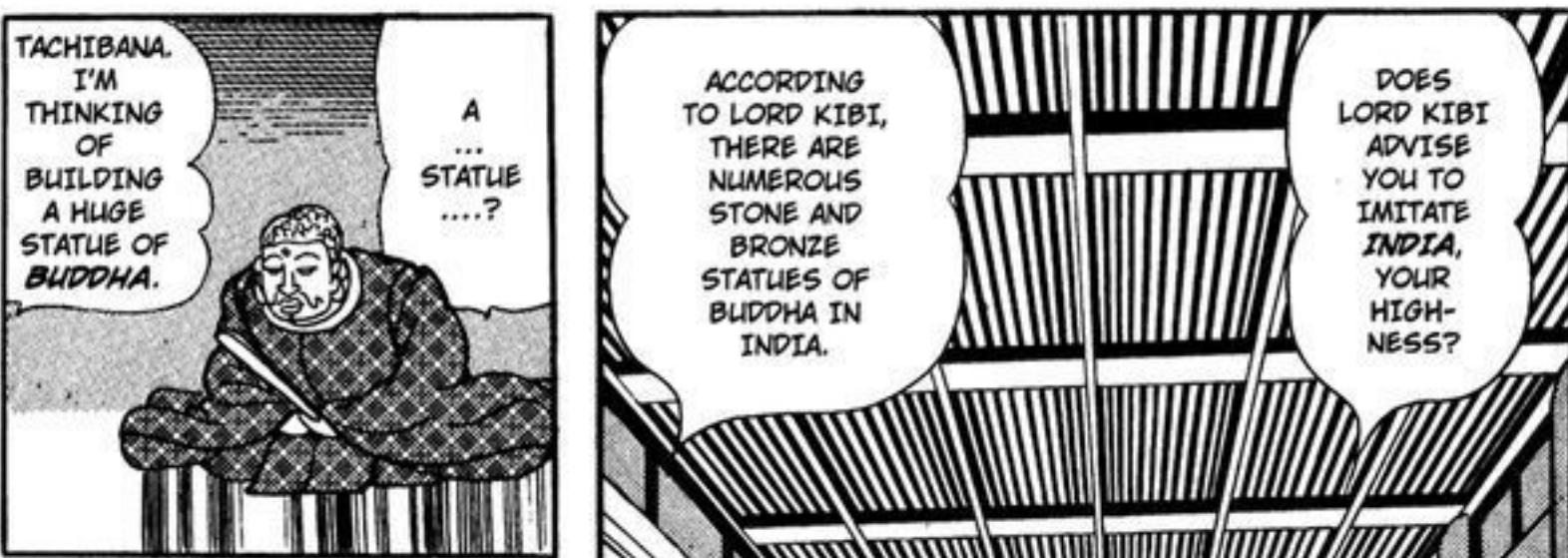
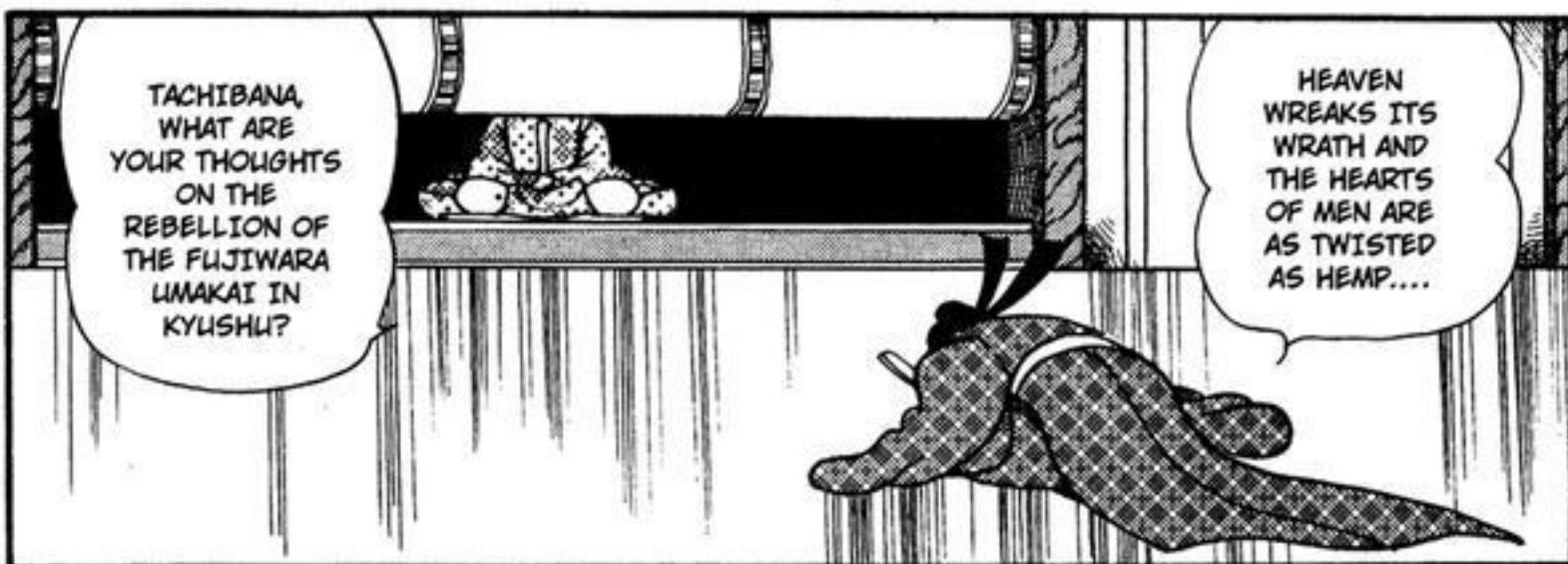
I REMEMBER
EVERYTHING!
THE COLOR
OF FEATHERS,
FACE AND FORM...
SO REAL I
COULD REACH
OUT AND
TOUCH HER!!

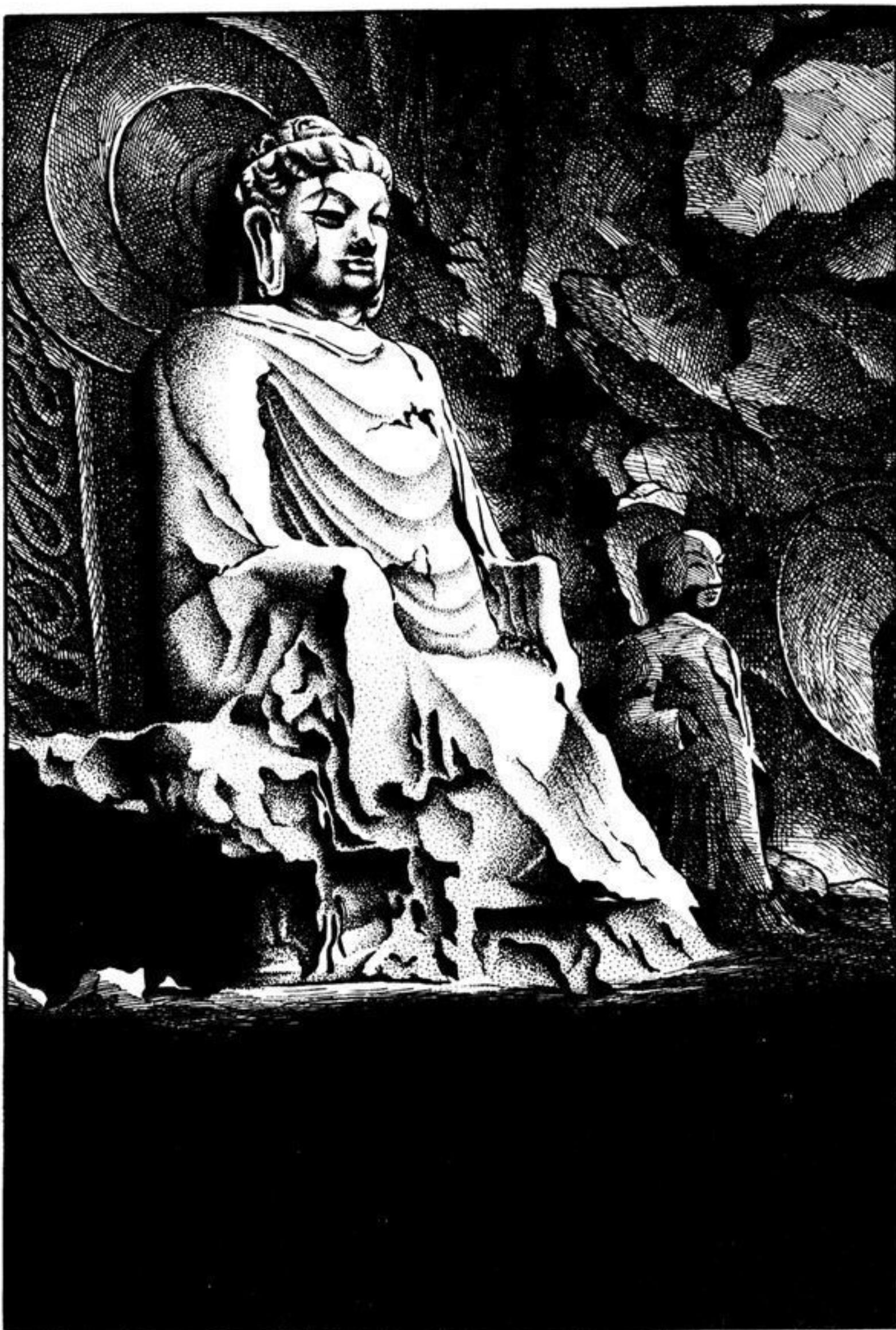












NO... THIS IS A
PROJECT I CONCEIVED
OF WHEN PRAYING
BEFORE THE BUDDHA
OF CHISHIKI TEMPLE
IN KOCHIOAGATA.

I THOUGHT THAT
A NATIONAL PROJECT
TO CREATE A HUGE
IMAGE OF BUDDHA IS
THE ONLY WAY TO UNITE
THE COUNTRY IN THIS
TIME OF UNREST.

HMMW
....

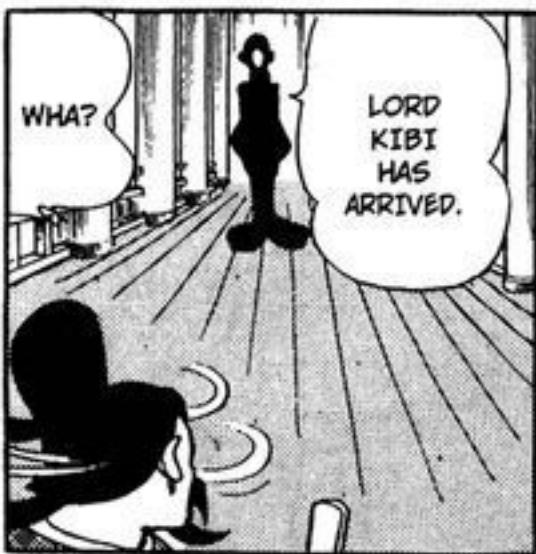
WE'LL COLLECT
COPPER FROM
THROUGHOUT
THE LAND AND
CAST A HUGE
BUDDHA IMAGE.

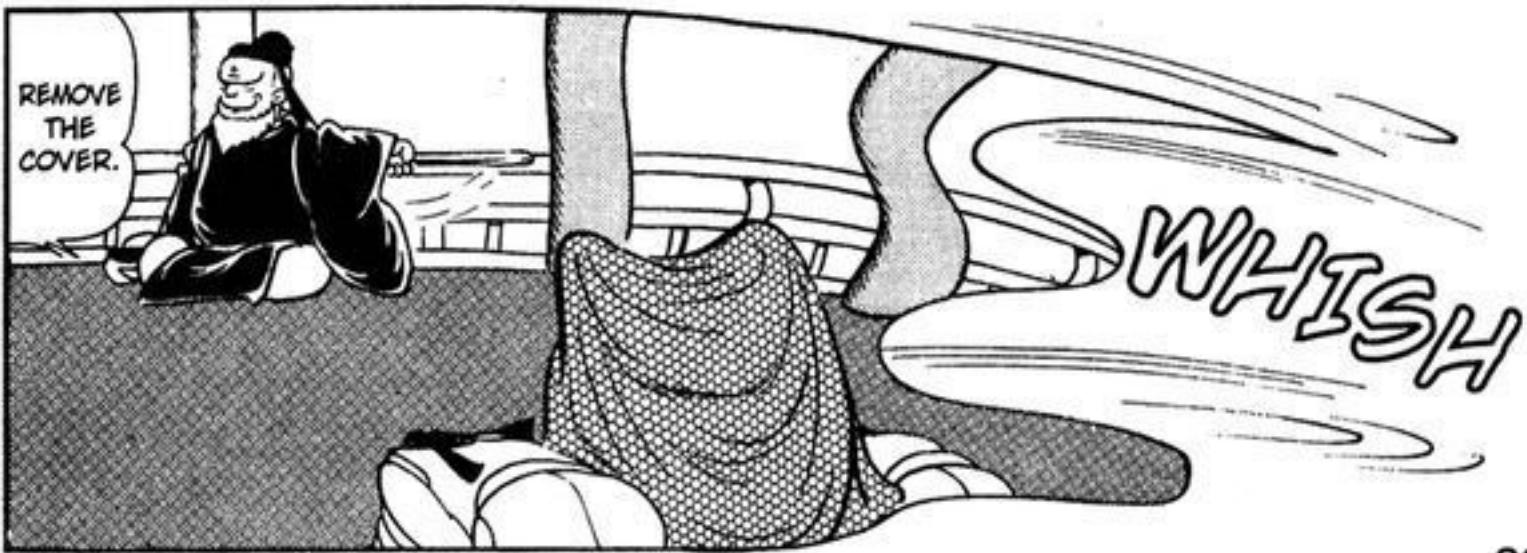
TREES WILL
BE FELLED
NATIONWIDE
AND USED TO
BUILD A HALL
TO HOUSE THE
STATUE.

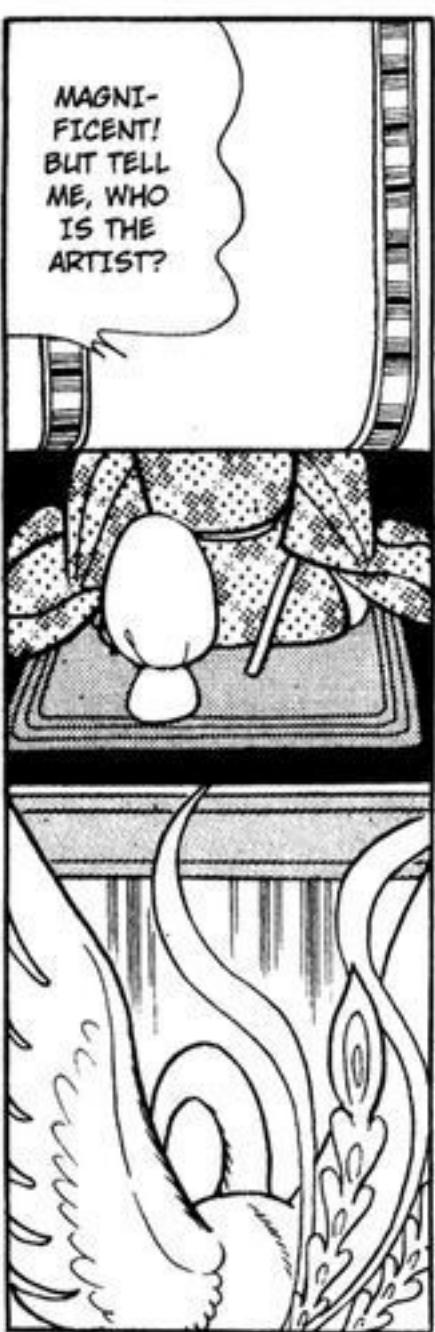
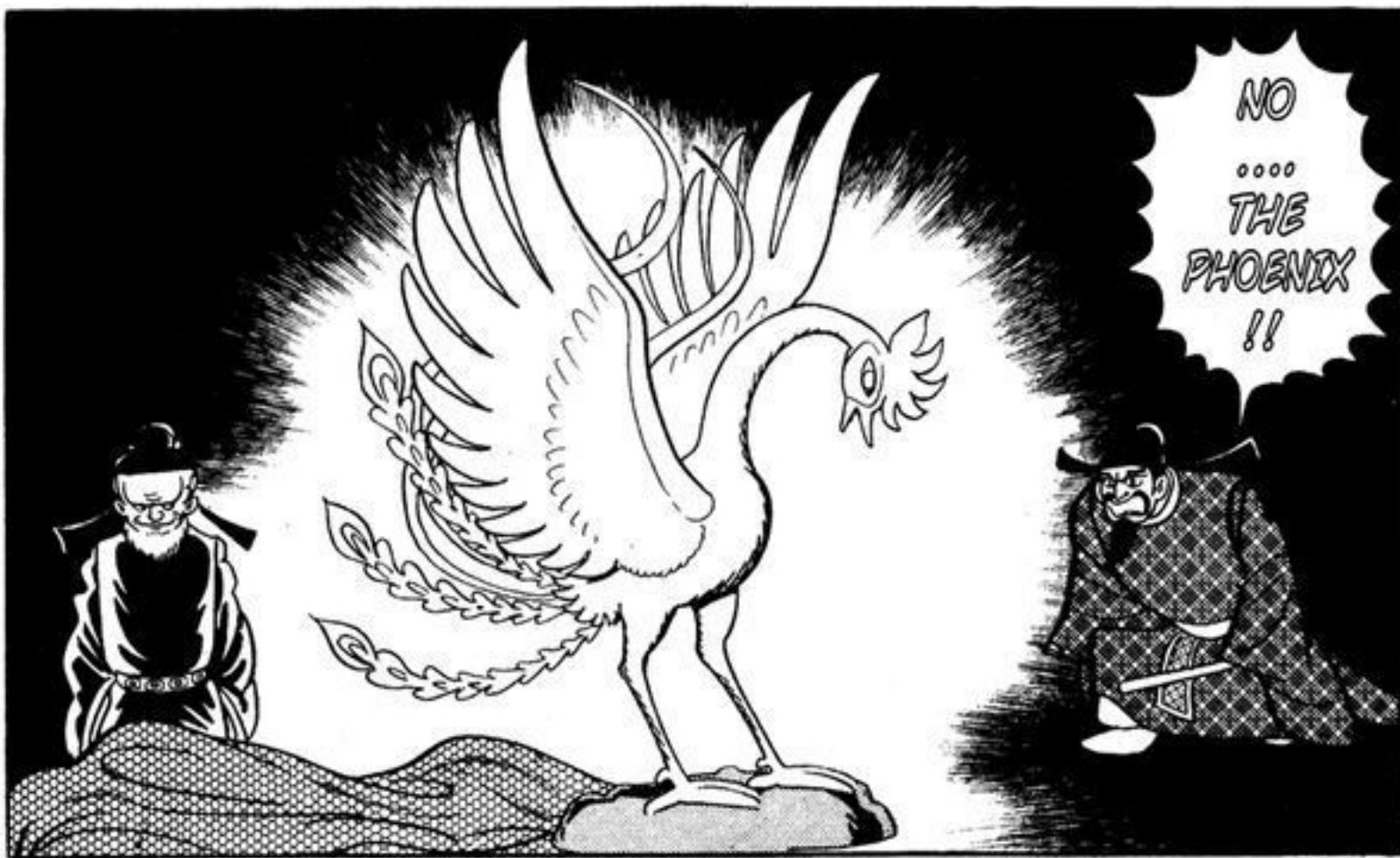
WE'LL SPREAD
BUDDHISM ALL
OVER THE
COUNTRY AND
MAKE IT A
STATE
RELIGION.

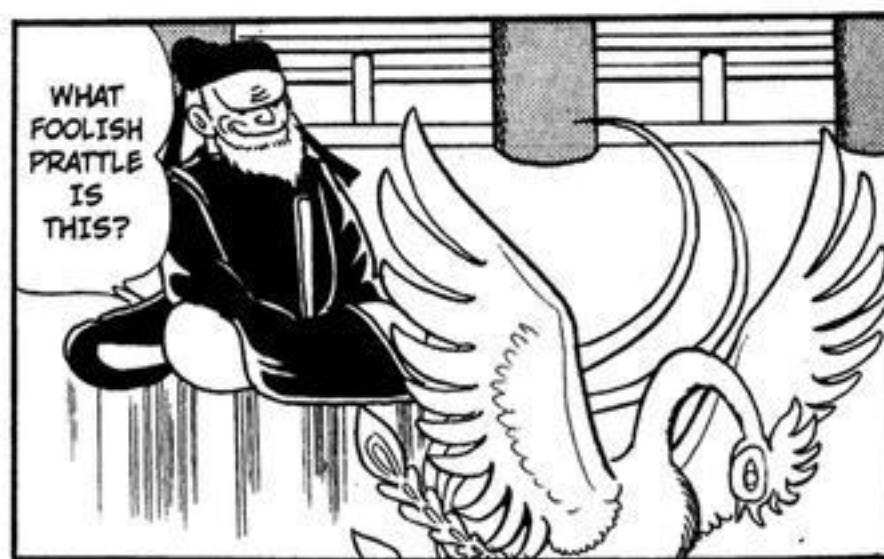
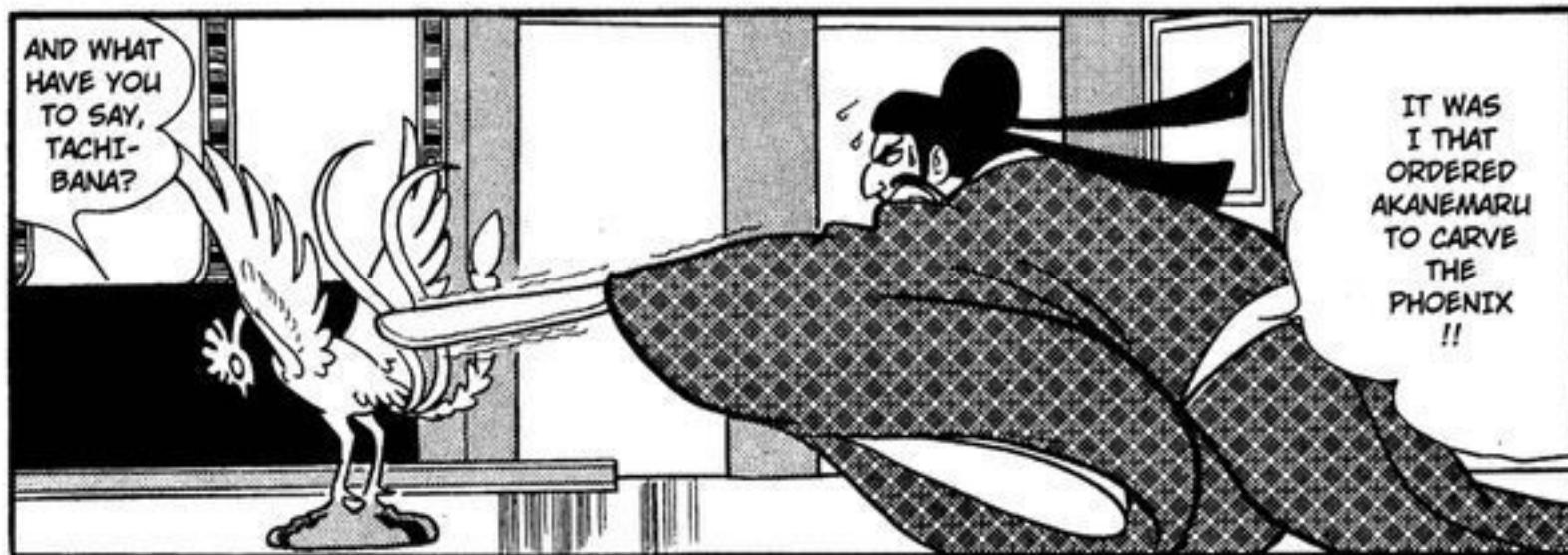
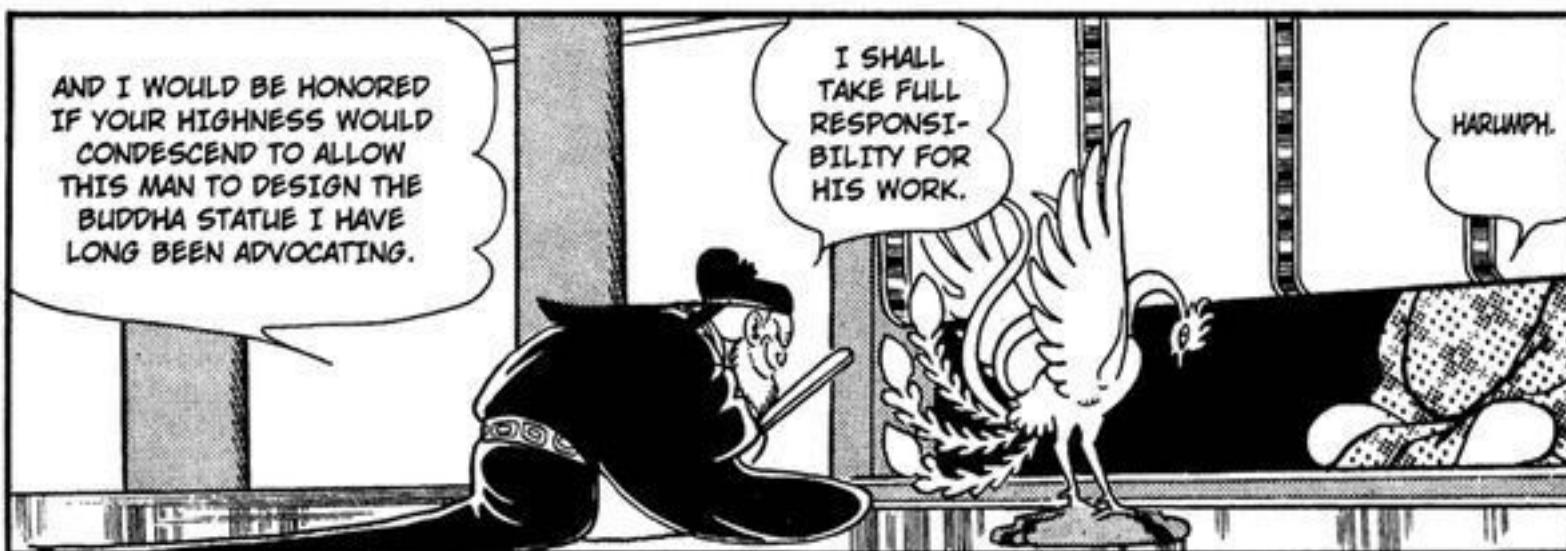
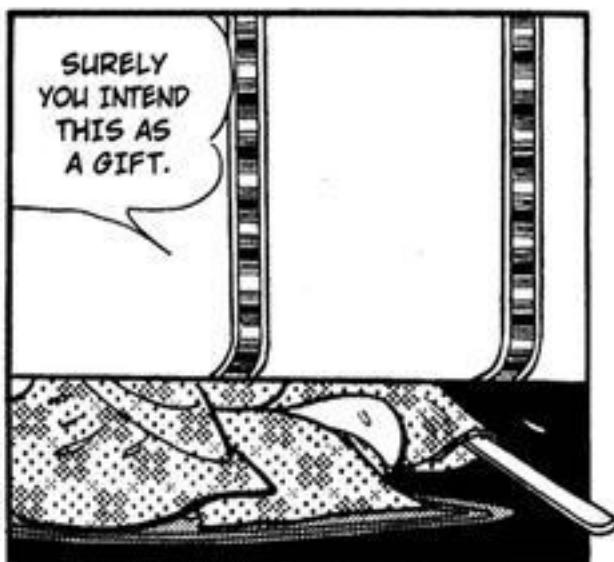
HMM
....

BLIT SURELY,
SIRE, YOU DO
NOT PLAN TO
ENTRUST THIS
ENDEAVOR TO
LORD KIBI.



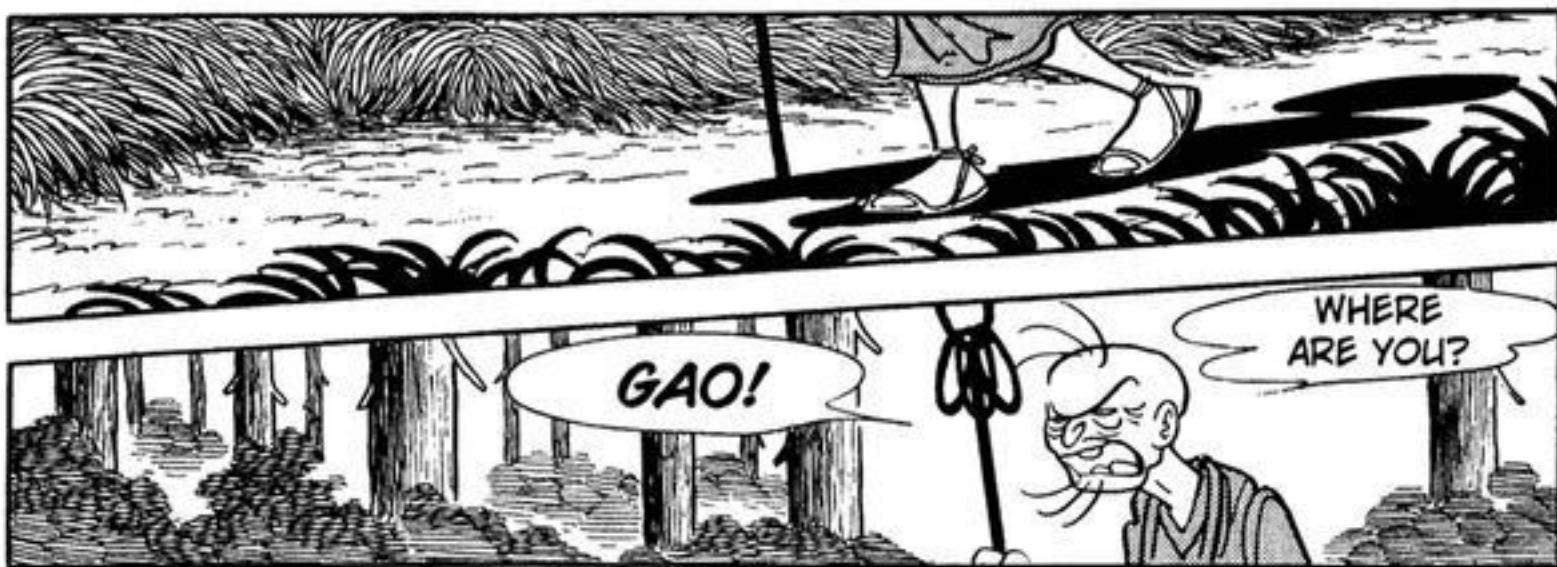


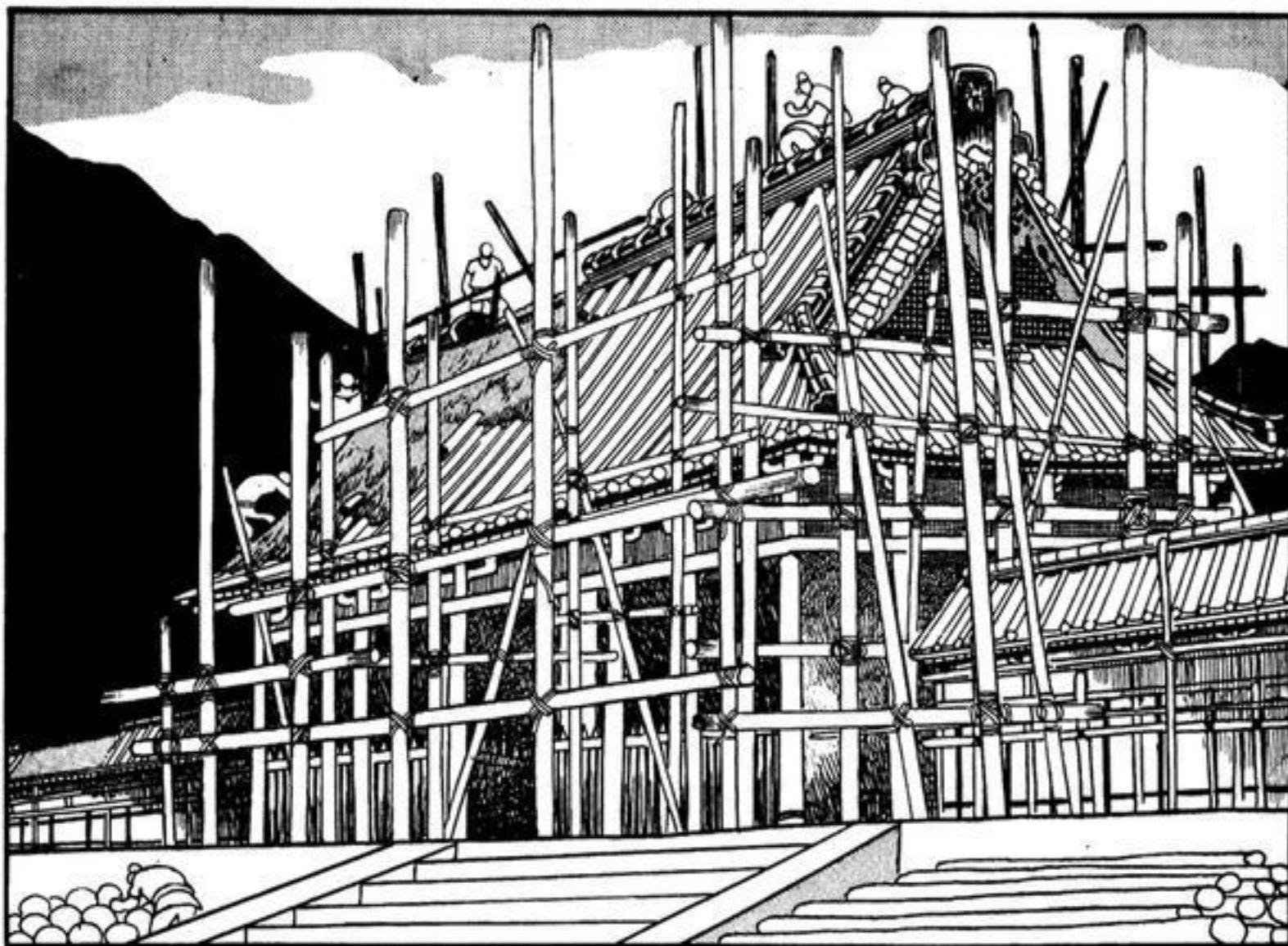






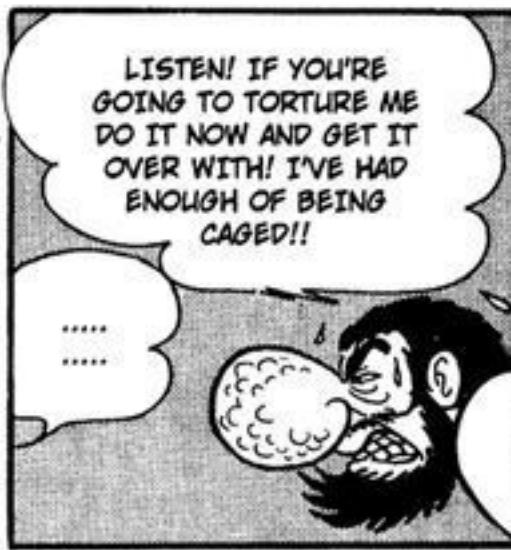




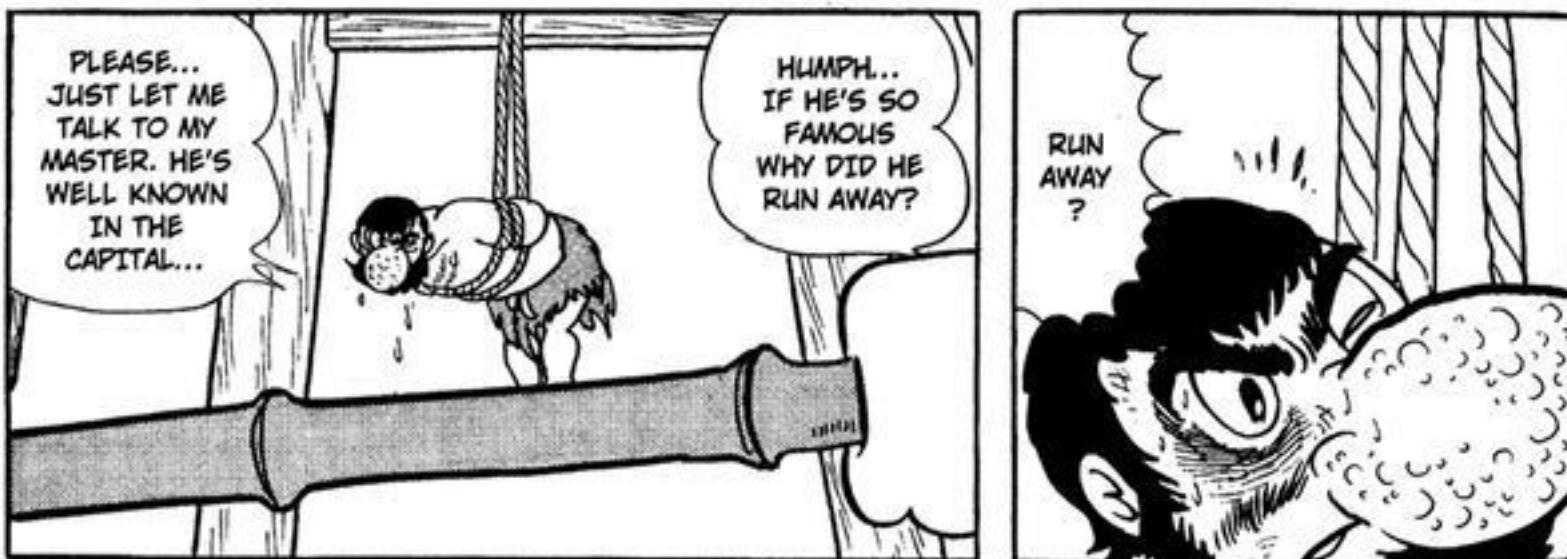


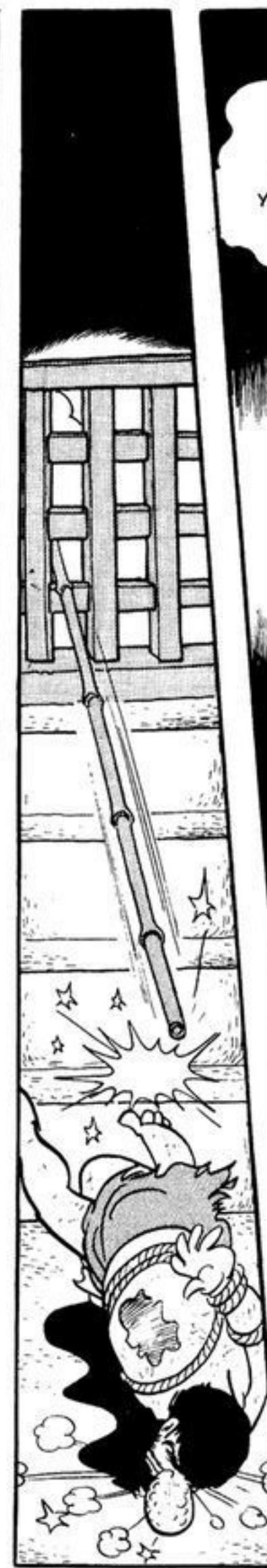
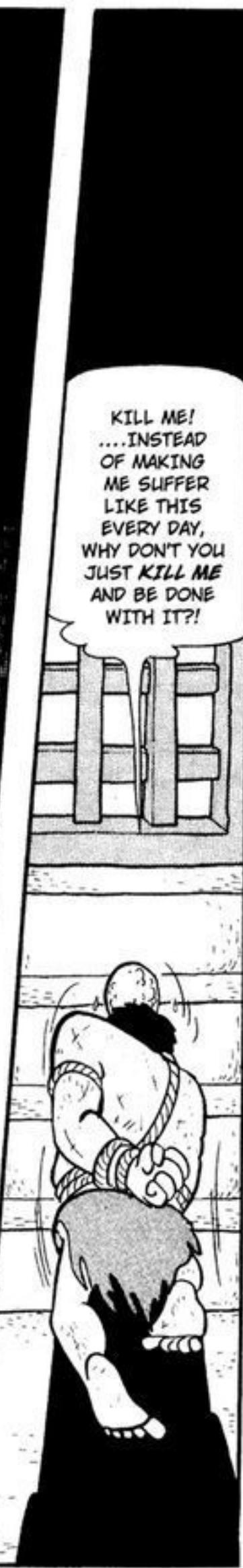


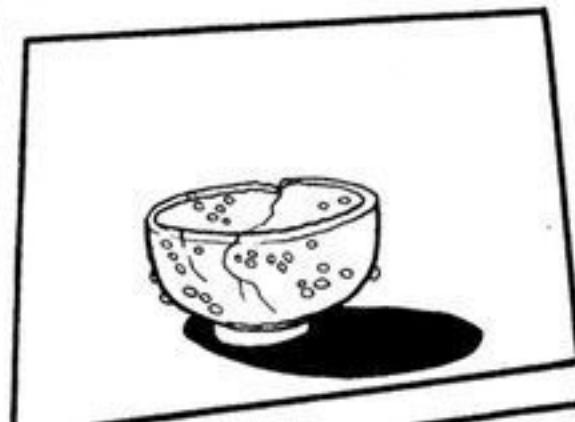


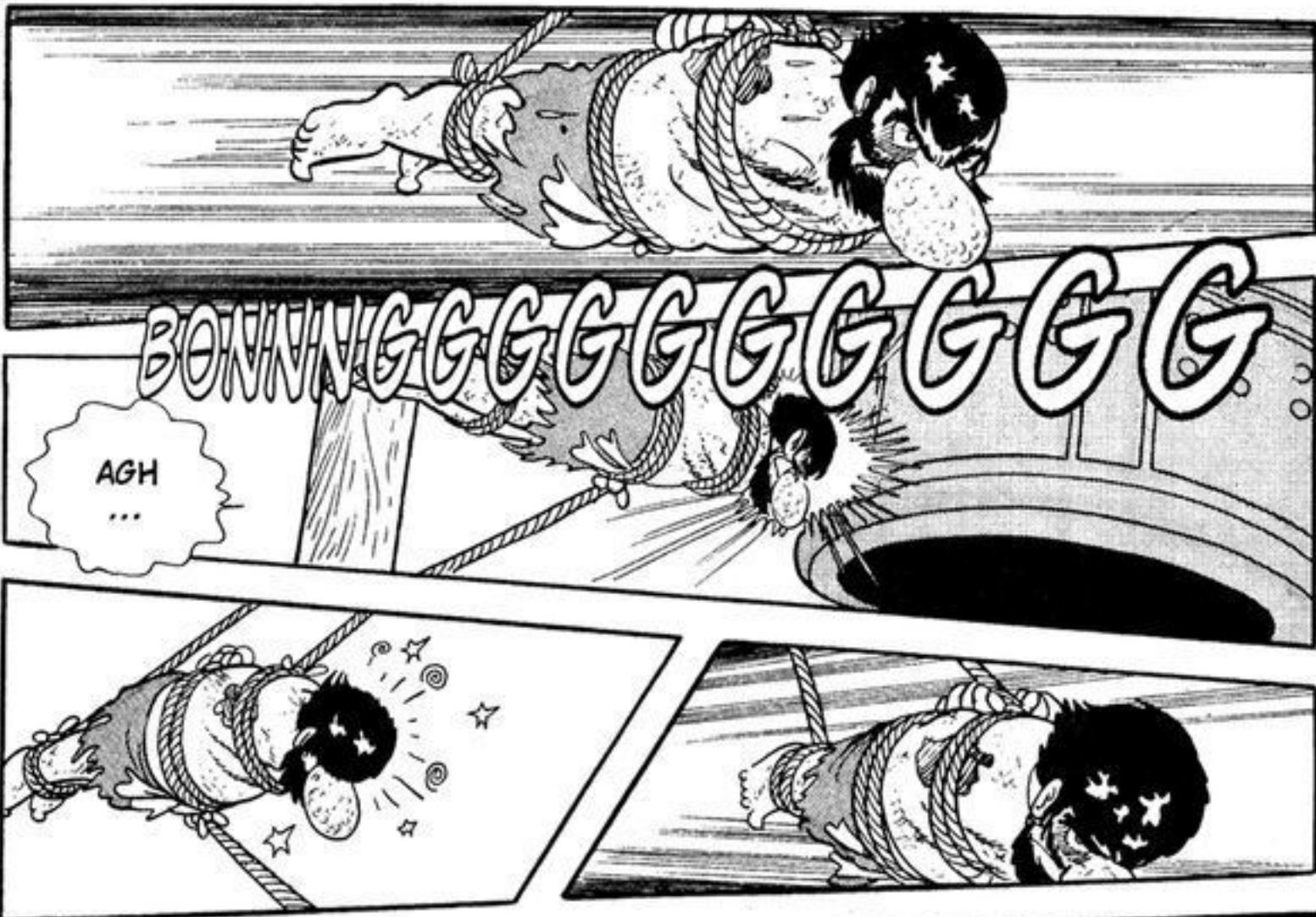




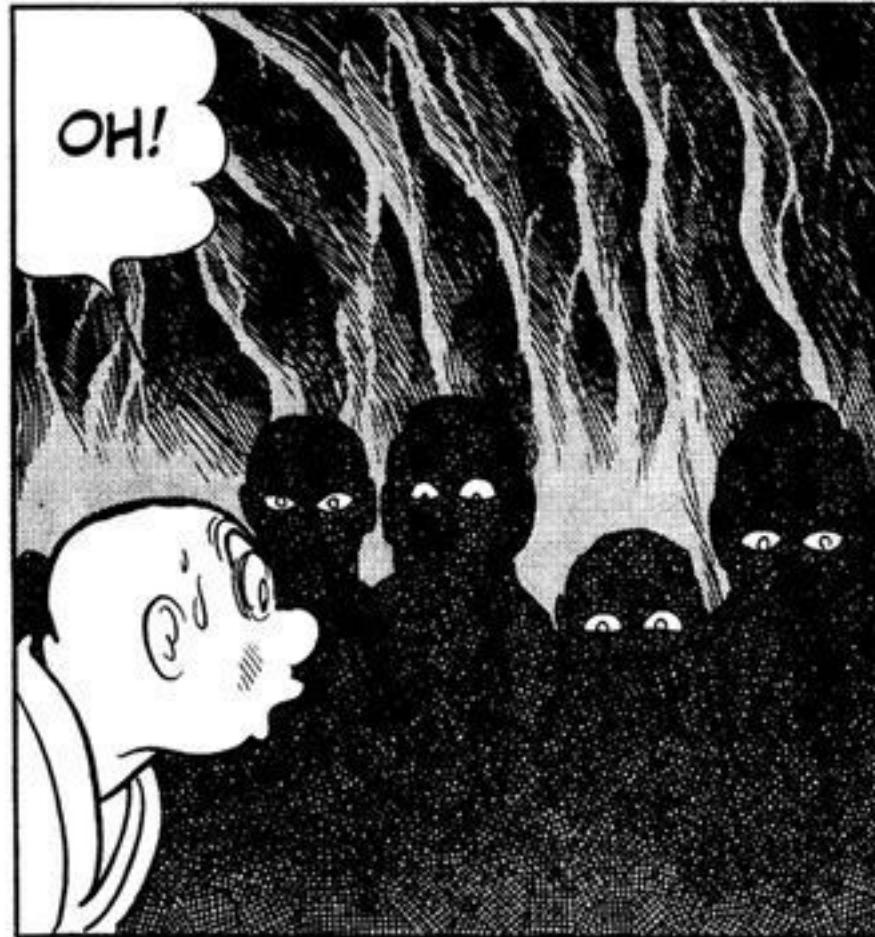
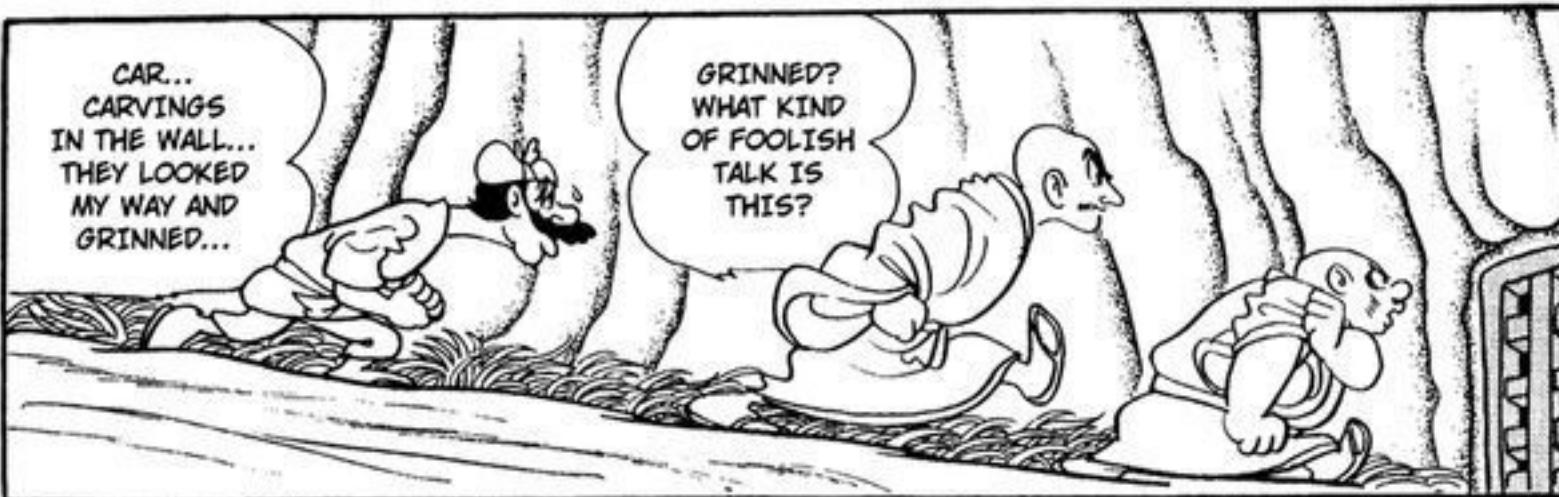


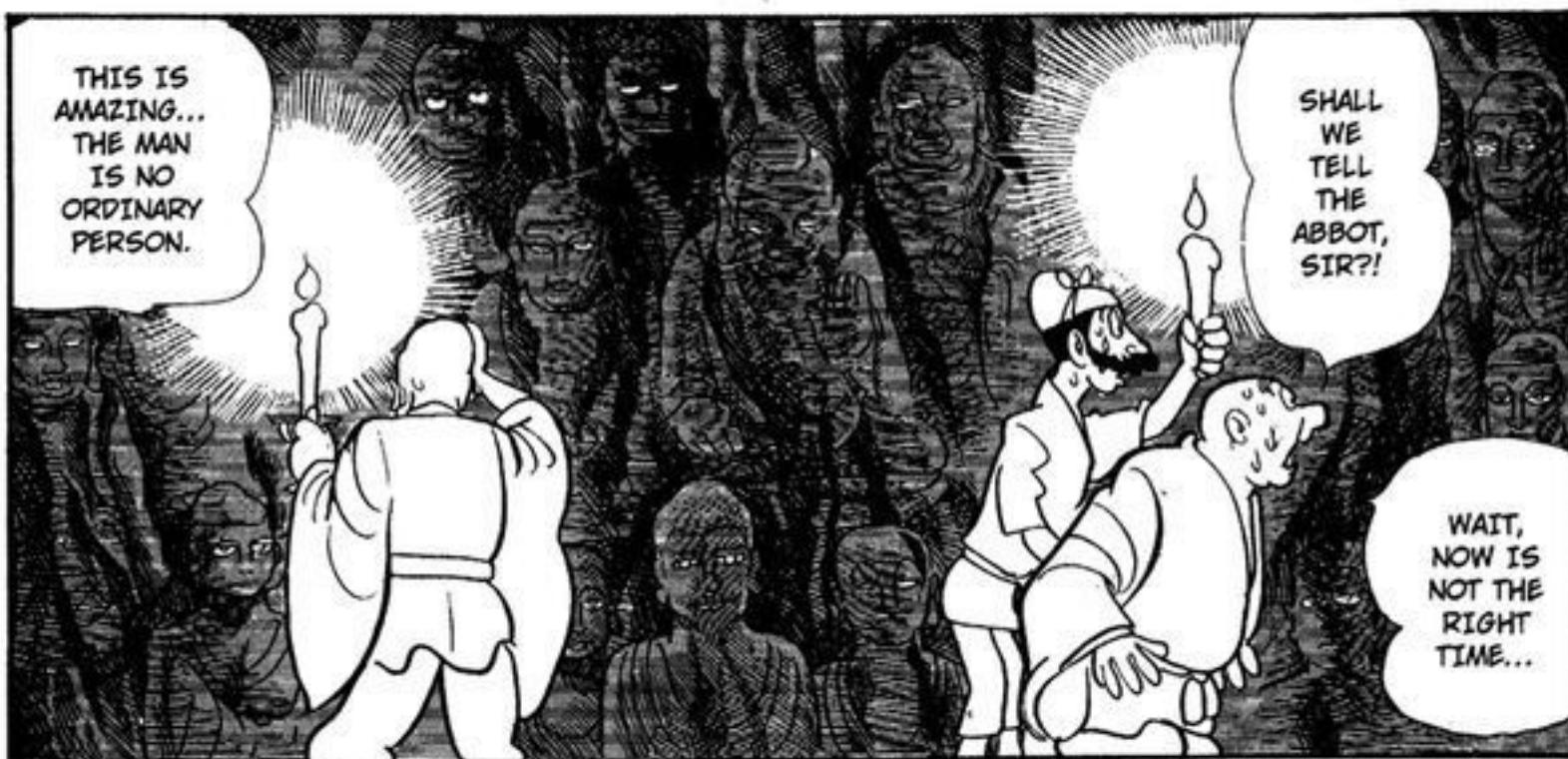
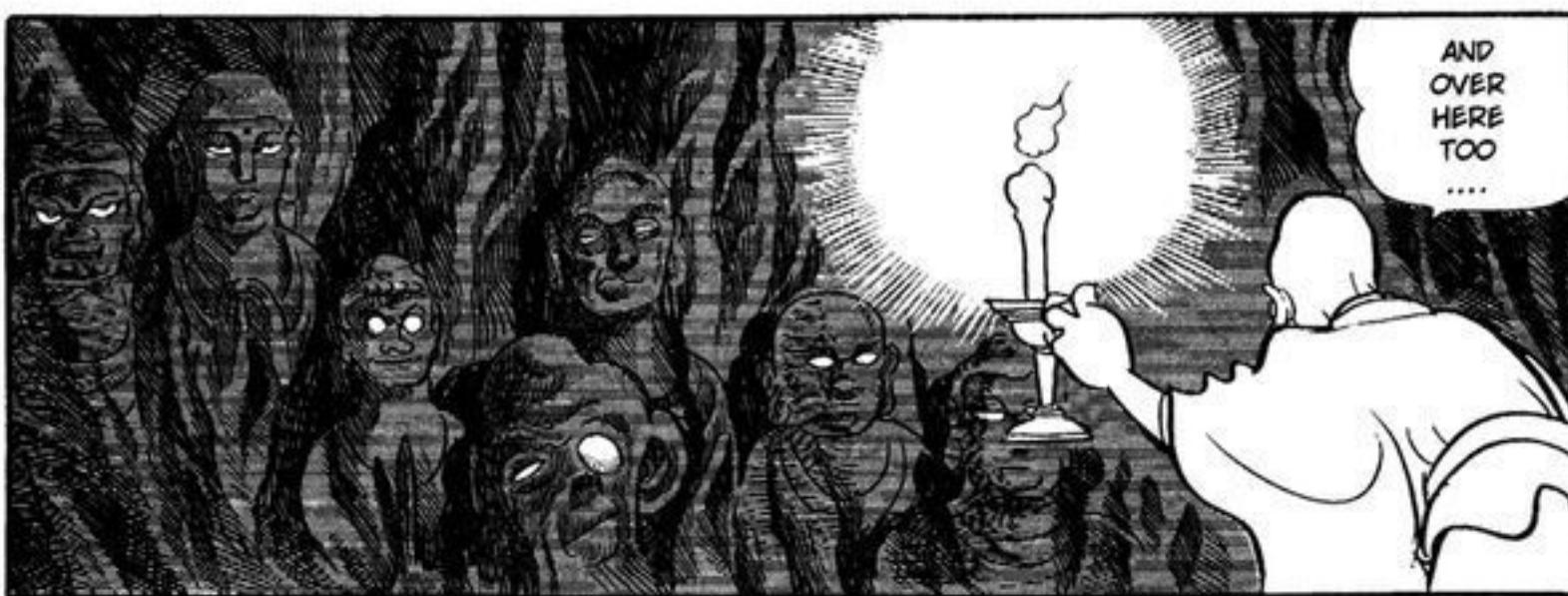
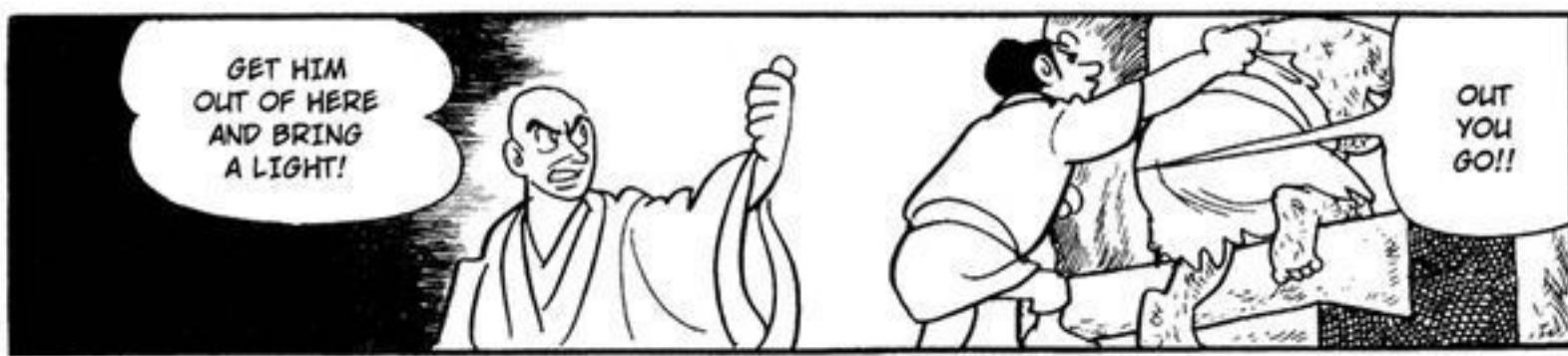








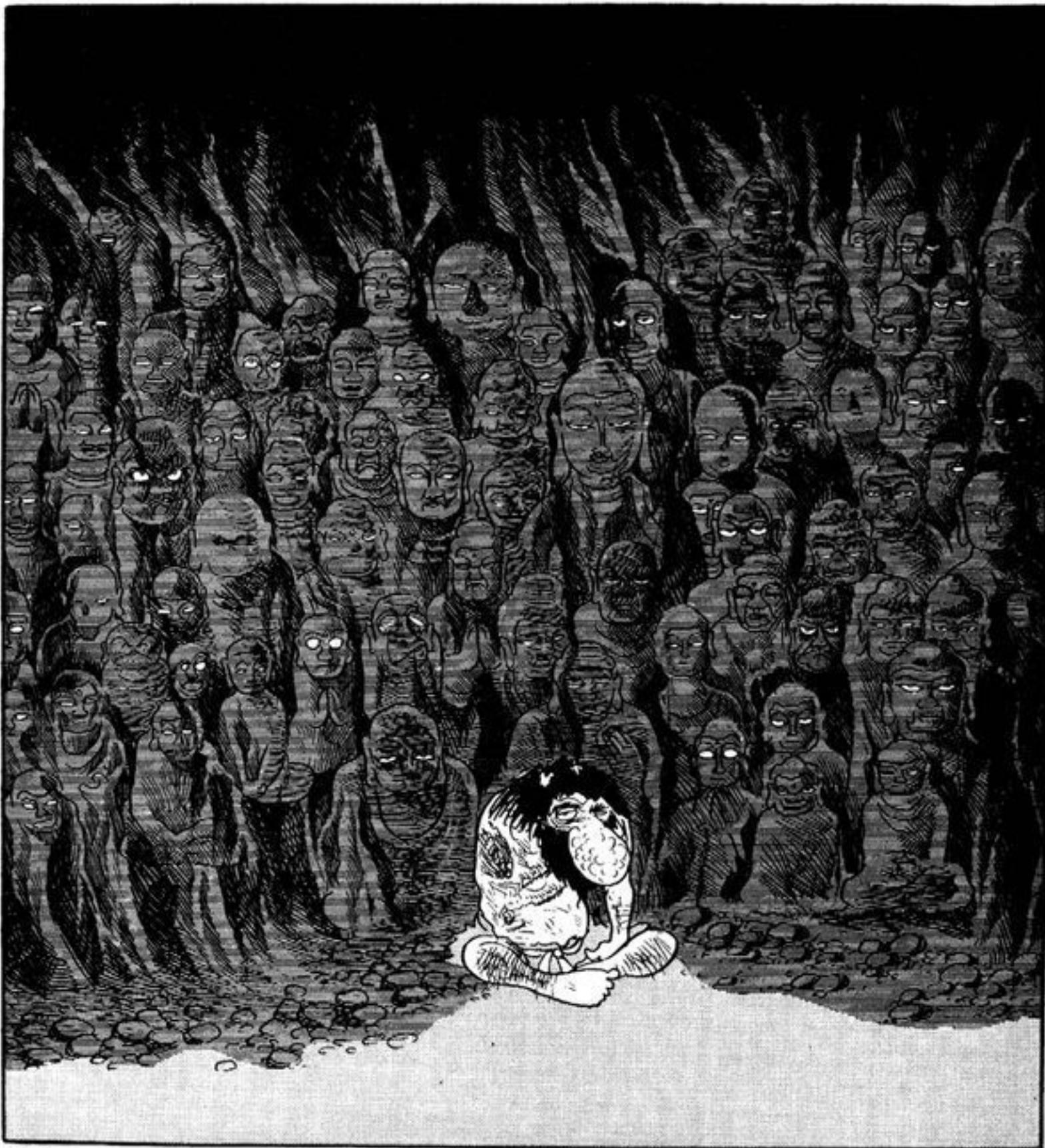


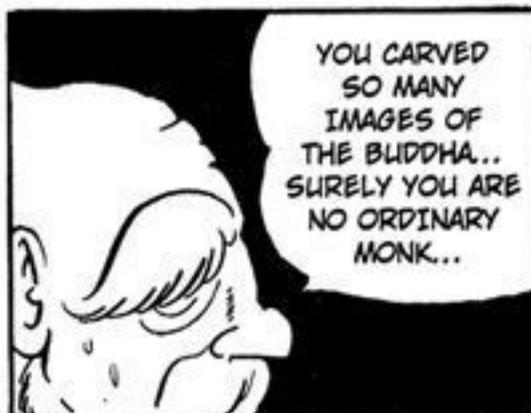


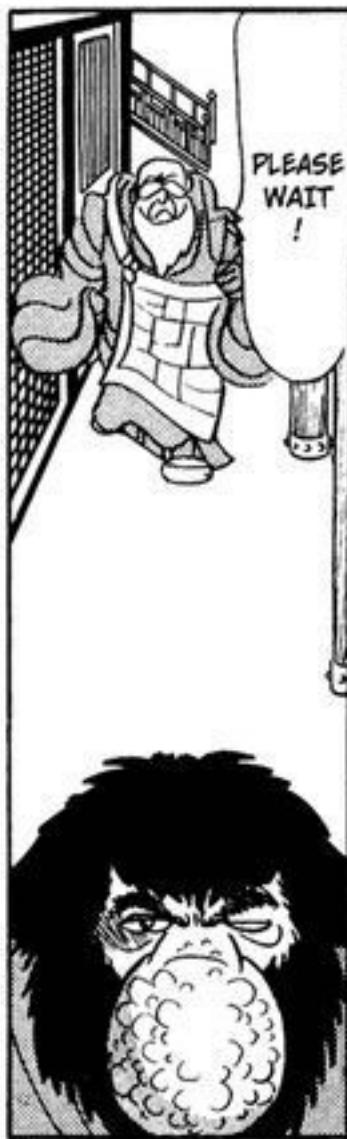
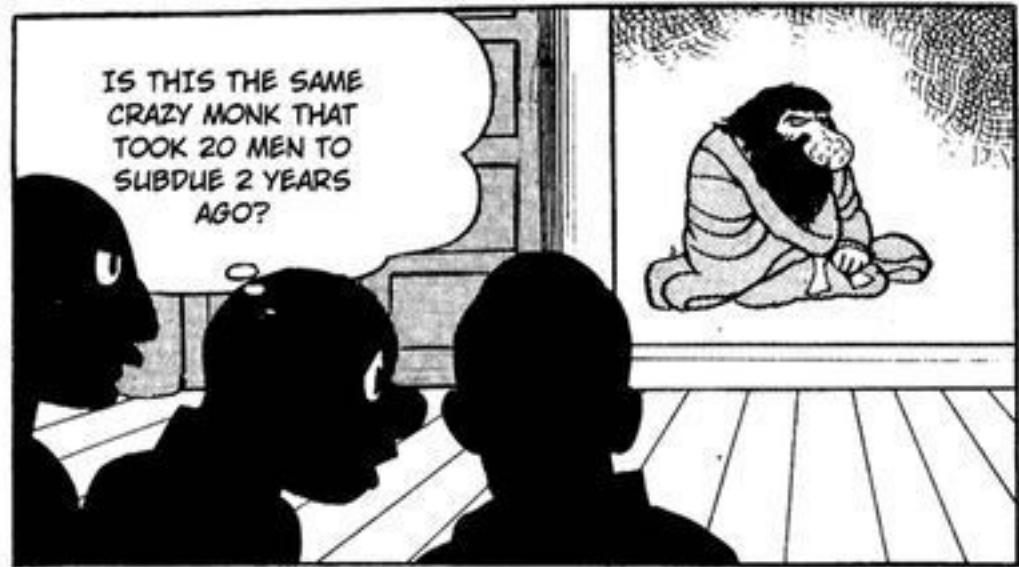


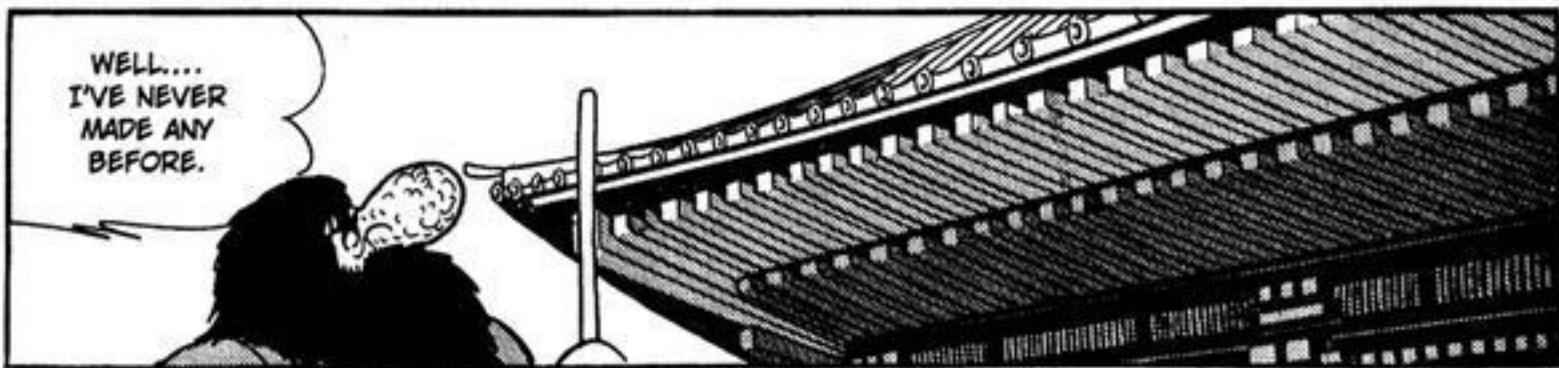


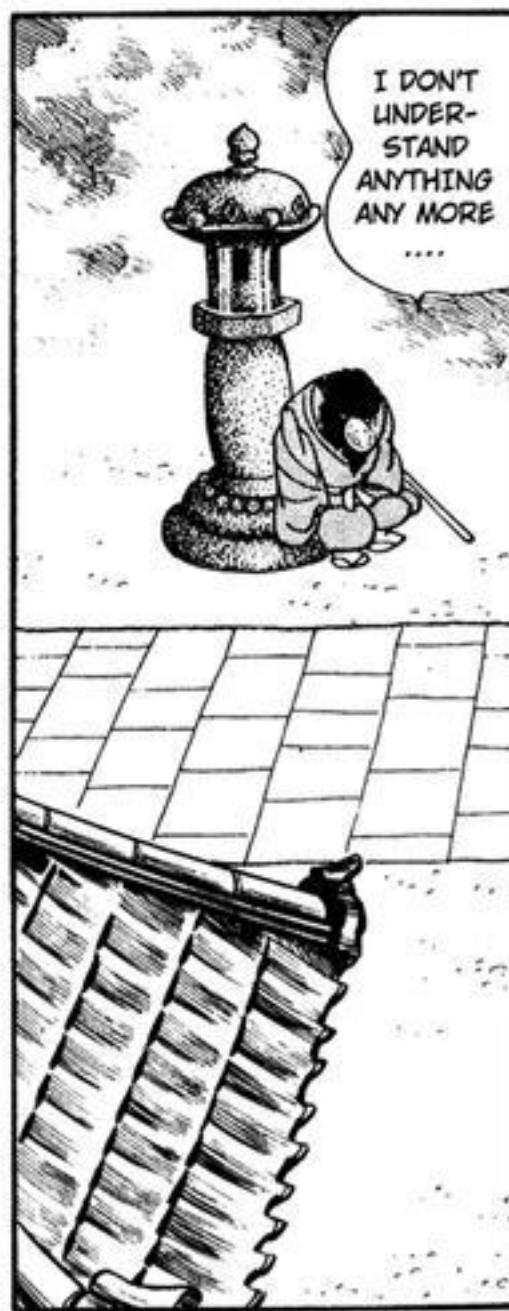


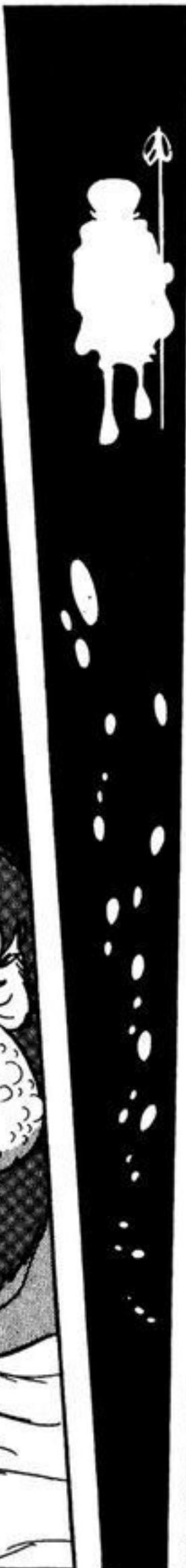


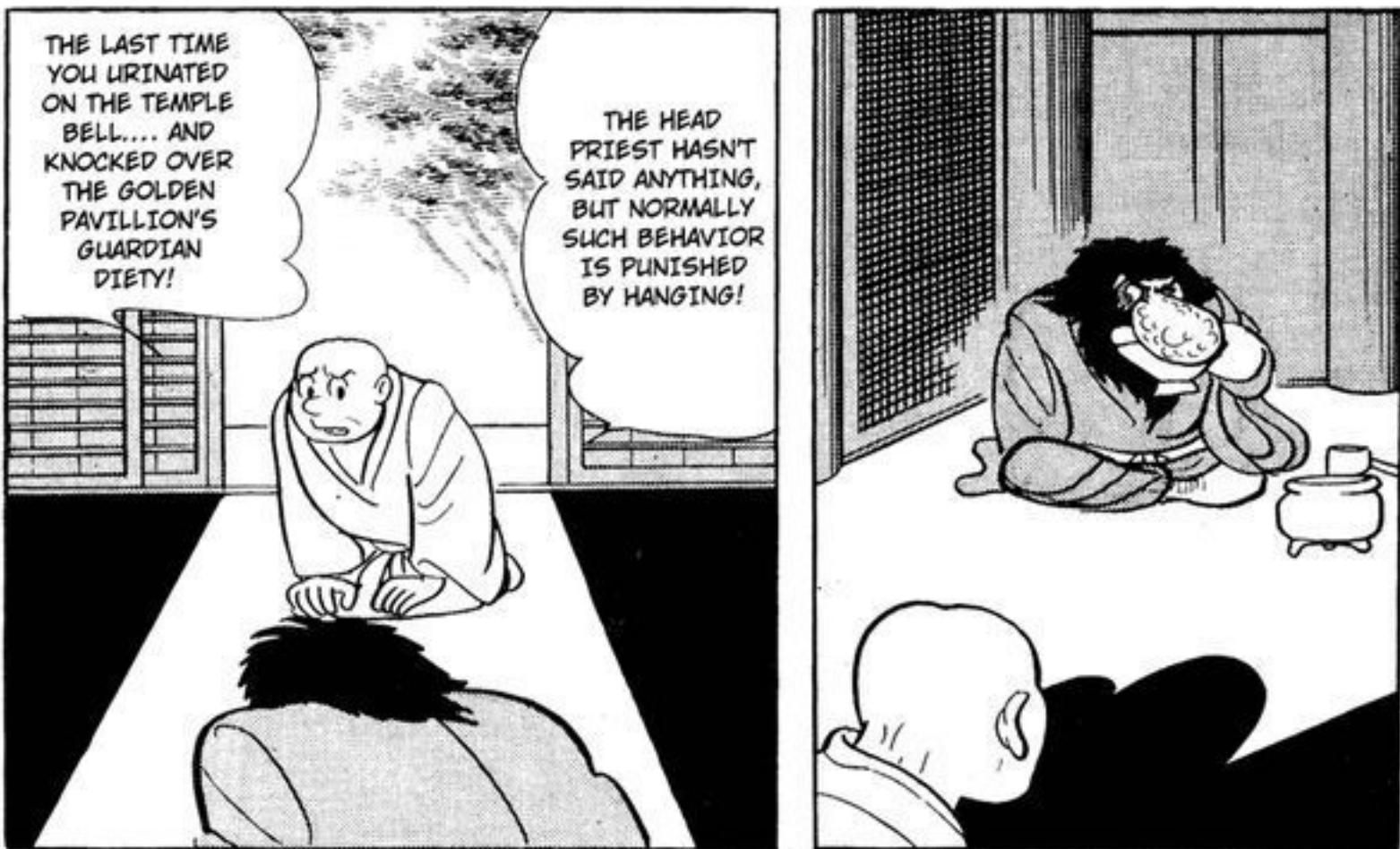
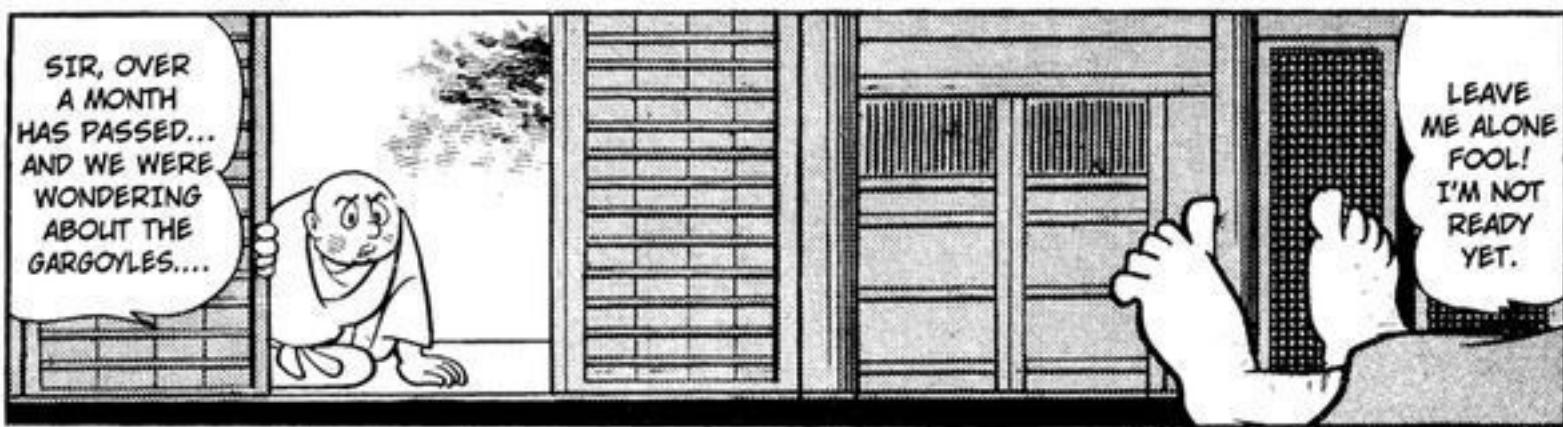






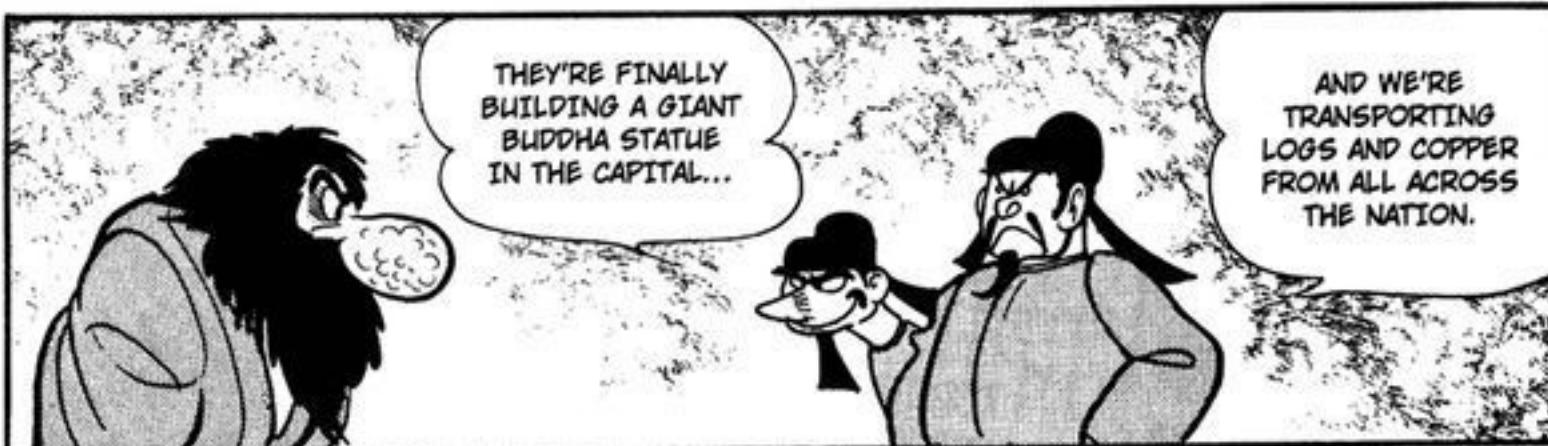
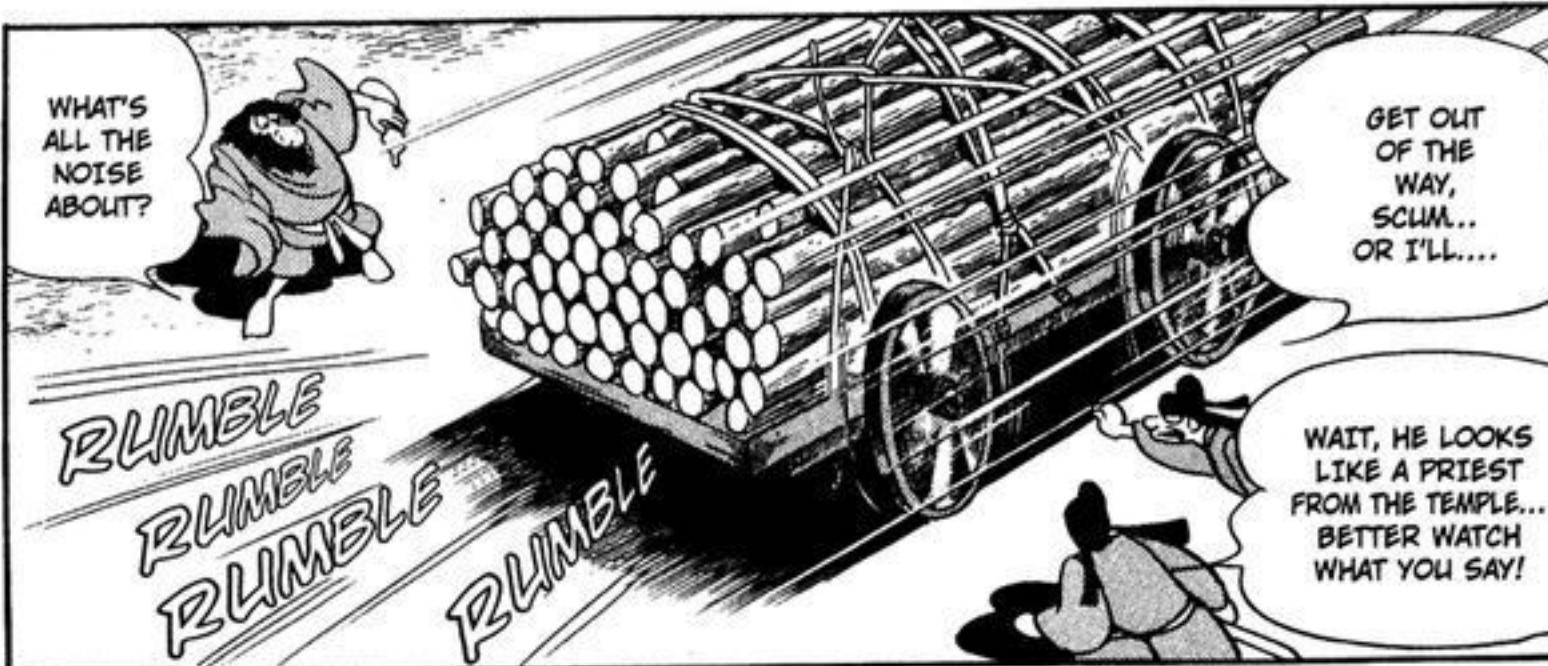
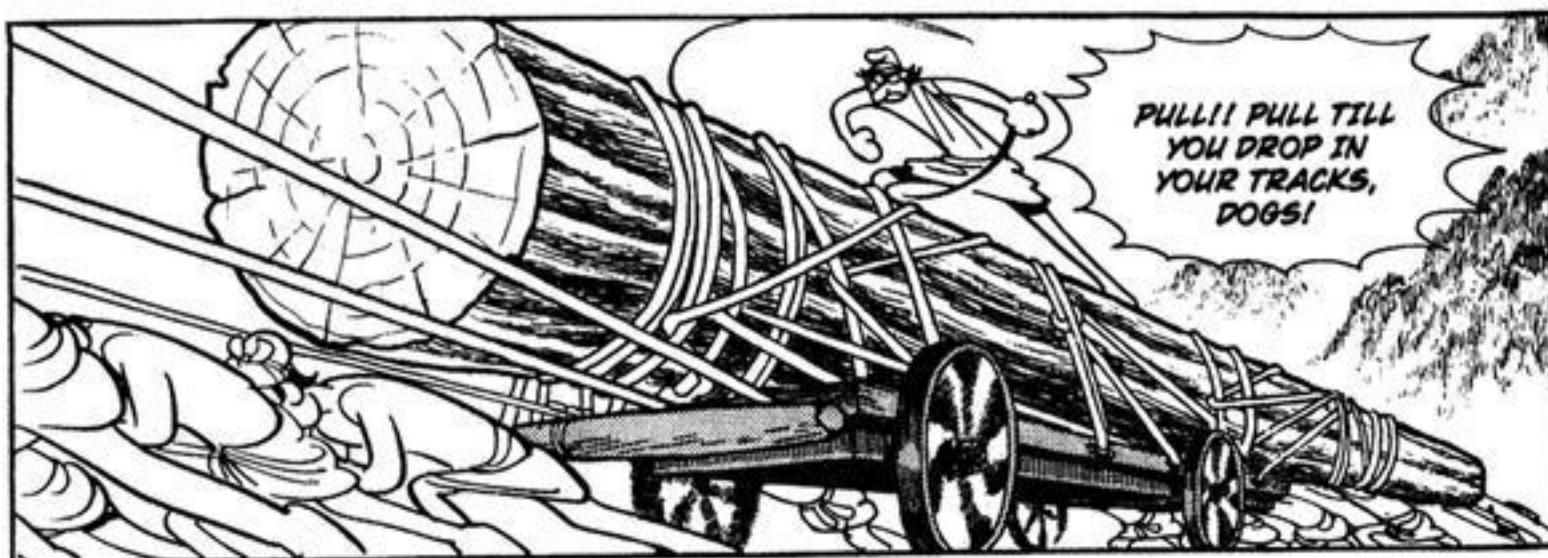
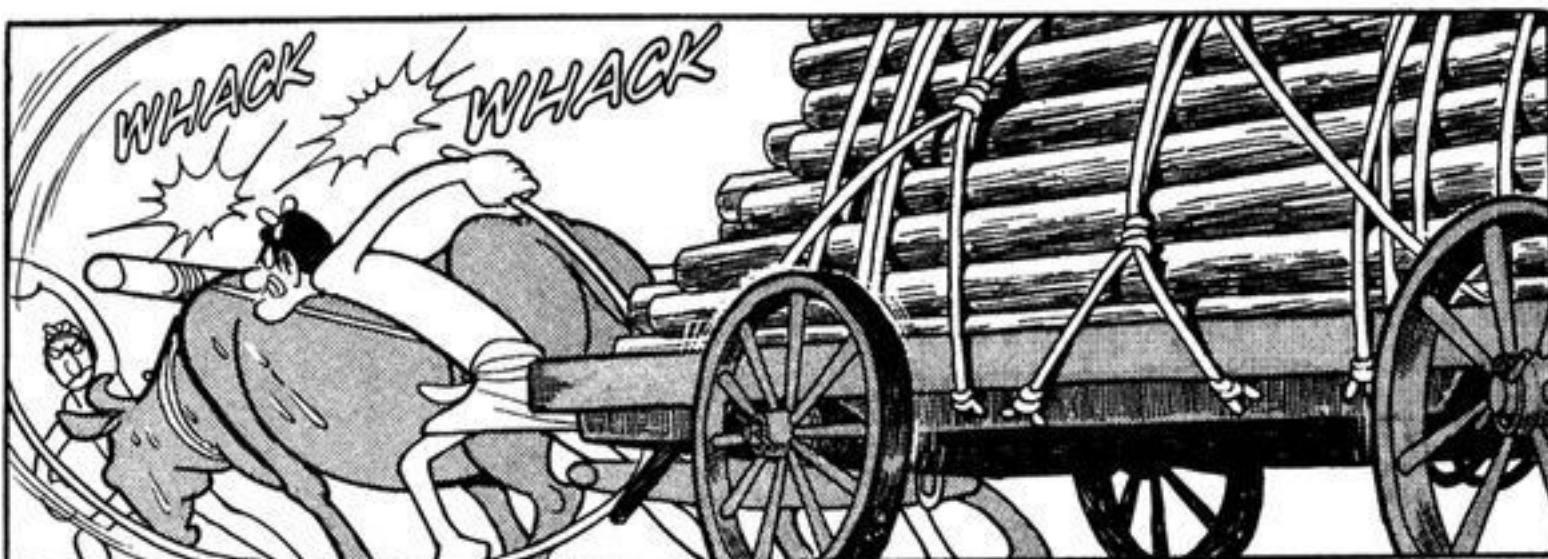


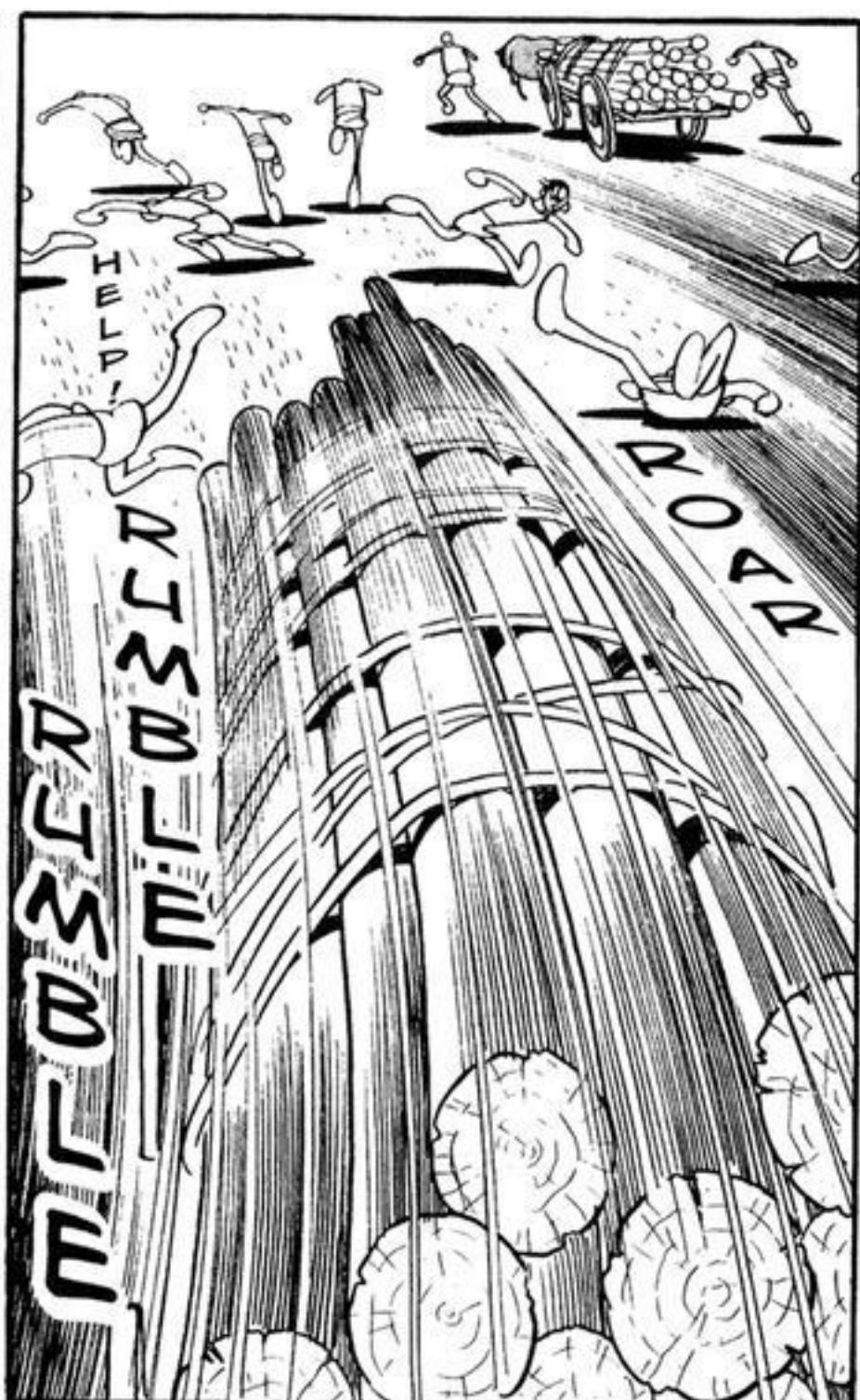
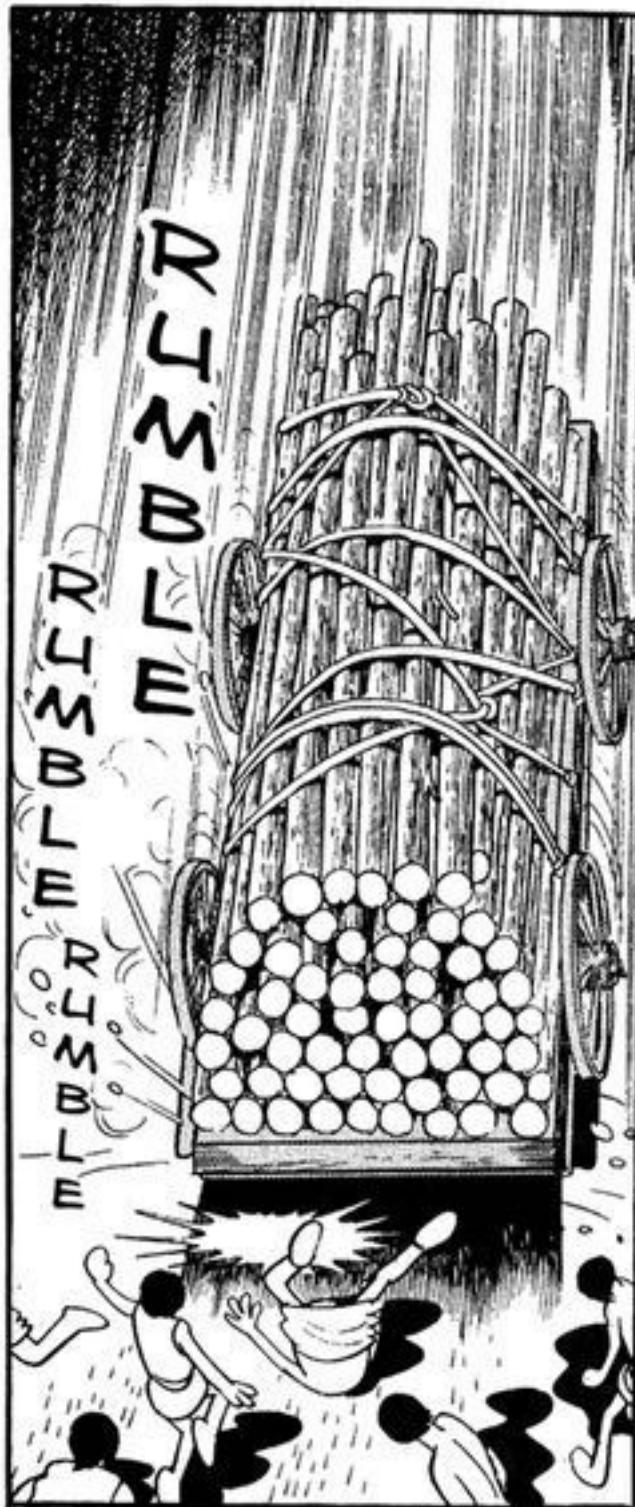






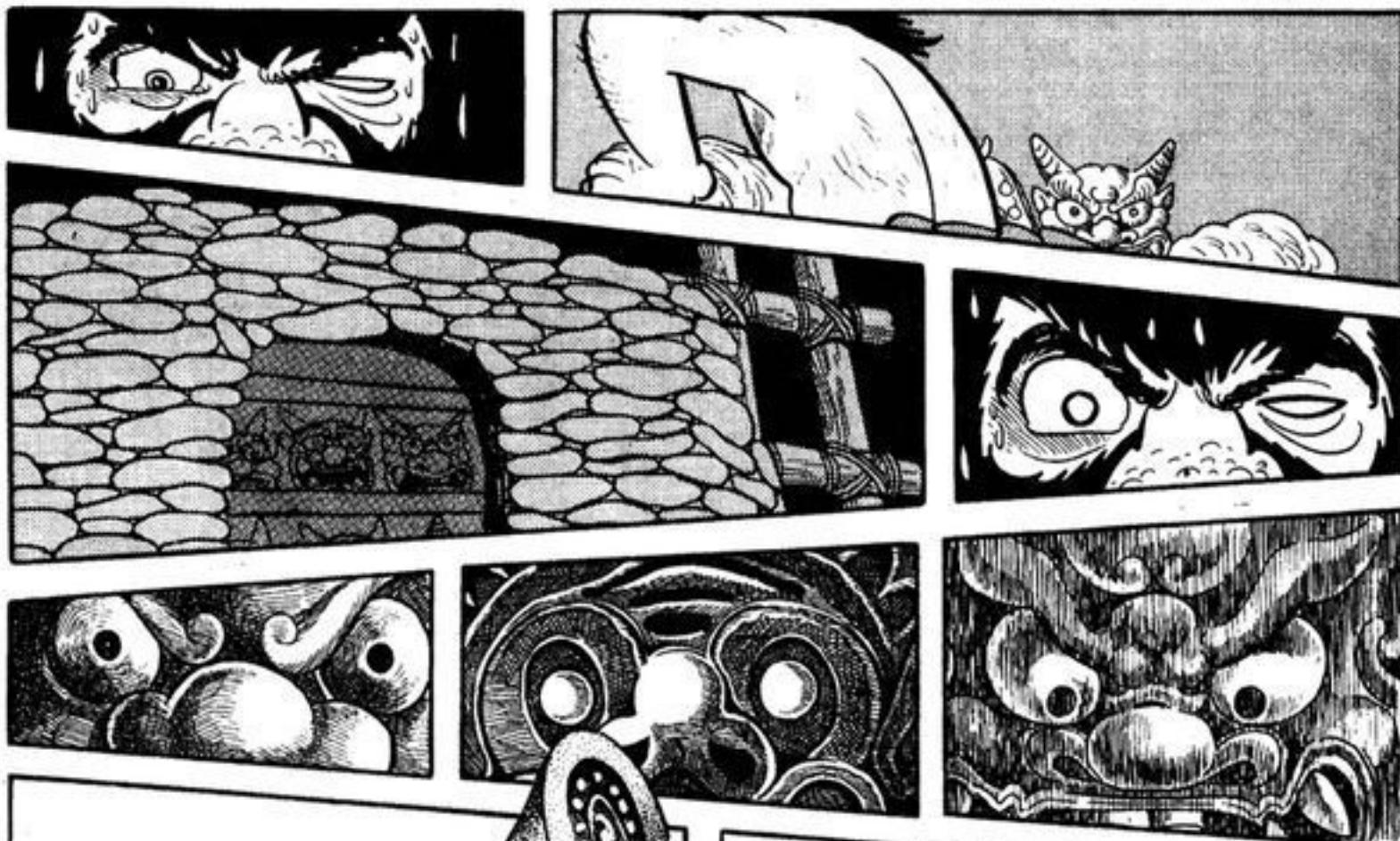


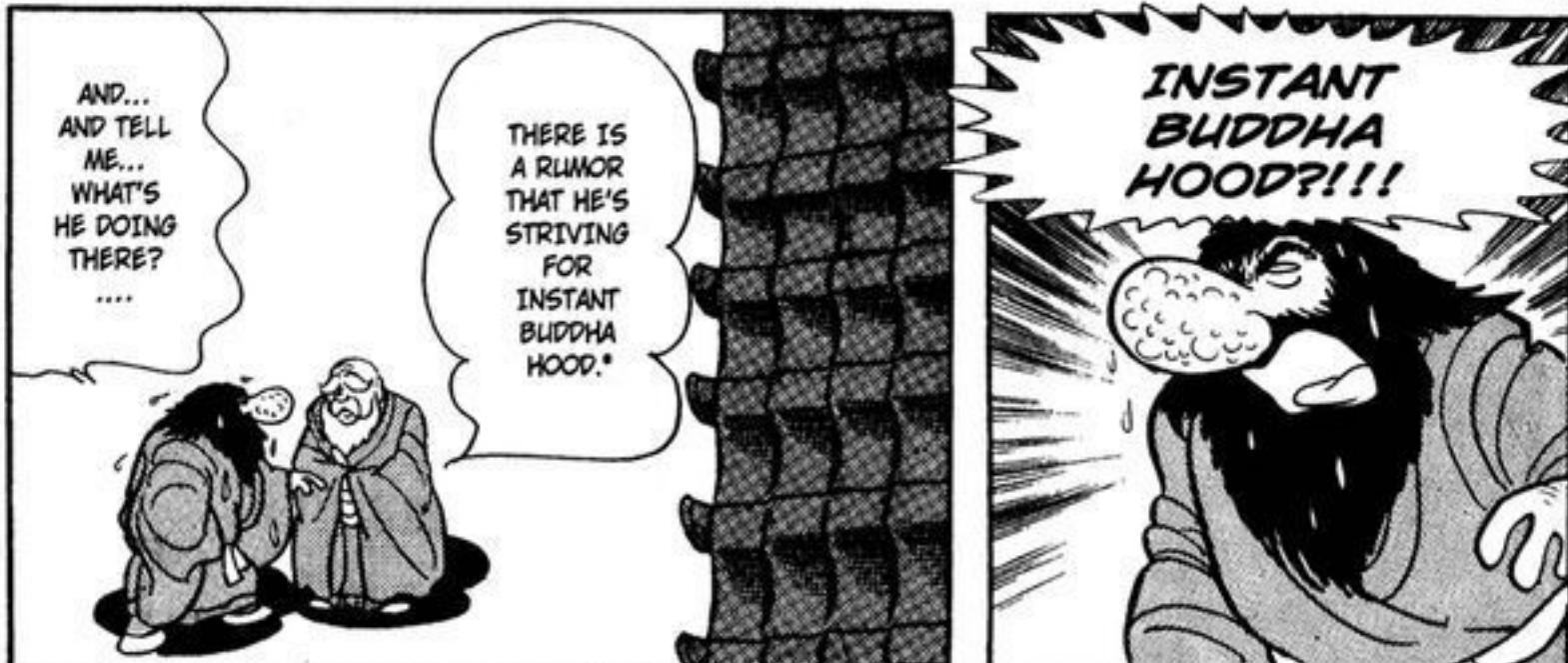
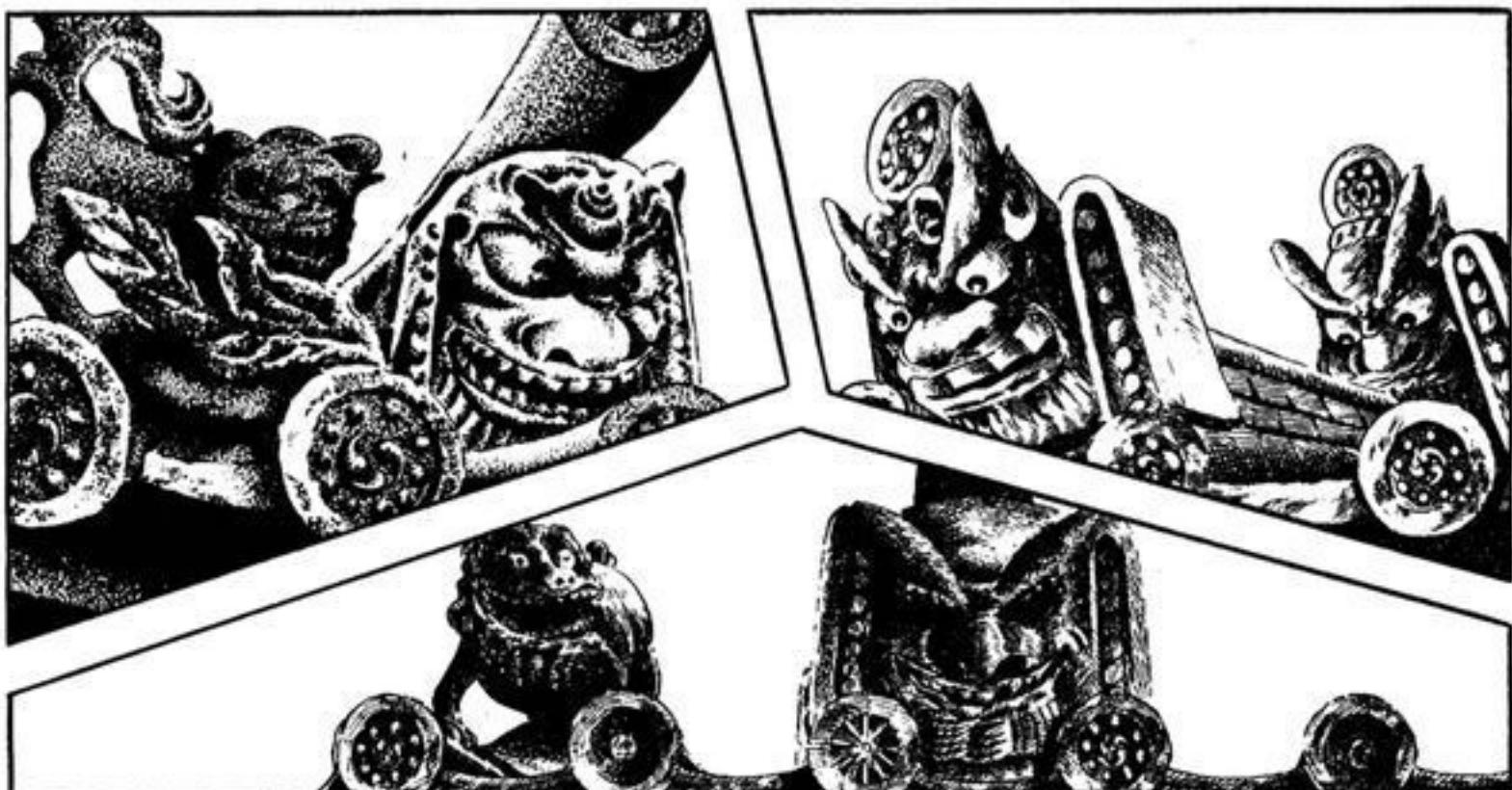




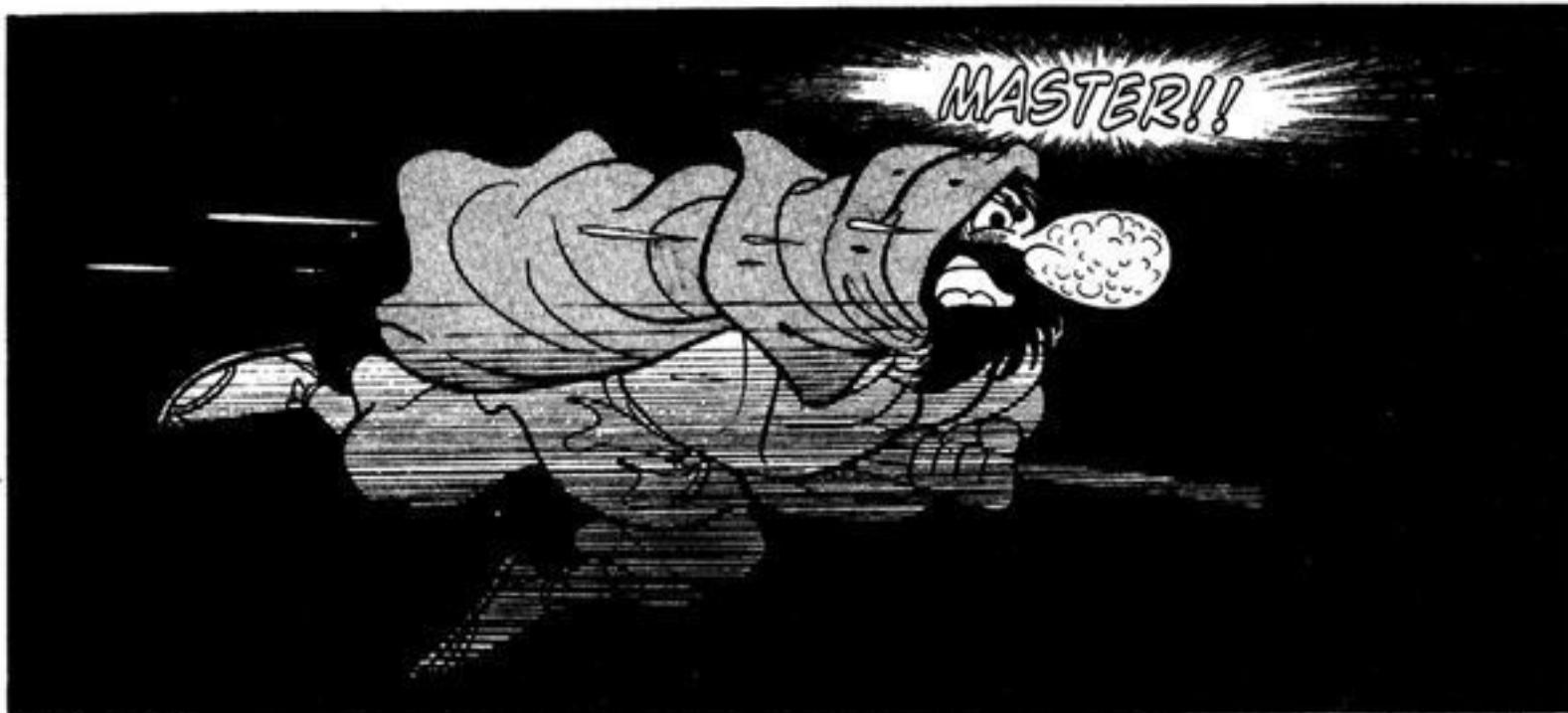




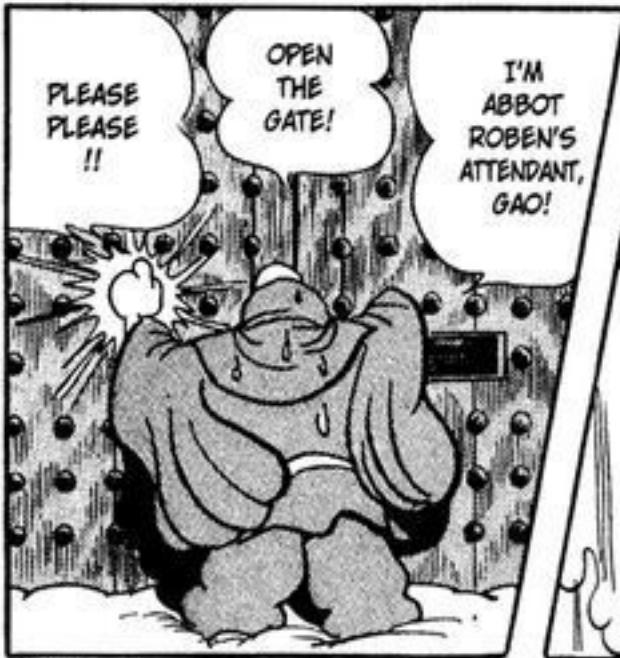




*INSTANT BUDDHA HOOD (SOKUSHINBUTSU): A BUDDHIST TERM FOR THE ACT OF ATTAINING BUDDHA HOOD WHILE STILL IN ONE'S LIVING FORM. LITERALLY INVOLVES BEING BURIED ALIVE WITH ONLY AN AIR SUPPLY AND THEN MEDITATING UNTIL DEATH IN A MUMMIFIED STATE. NO LONGER PRACTICED.









*ECHIGO: A LOCALE NEAR PRESENT DAY NIIGATA PREFECTURE, JAPAN. IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT THE HIRAZUMI TEMPLE, GAO HAD TO TRAVEL HUNDREDS OF MILES.



MASTER!
IT'S ME,
GAO! CAN
YOU HEAR
ME?



GAO...
IS THAT
YOU?

PLEASE
LEAVE ME
ALONE.... I
WANT TO
ATTAIN
BUDDHAHOOD
IN PEACE....

BUT WHAT
GOOD WILL
IT DO IF
YOU DIE?

MASTER! YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
TAUGHT ME KARMIC
RETRIBUTION! YOU
SAID IN THE NEXT
LIFE WE MIGHT BE
REBORN AS
ANIMALS!

DO YOU
WANT TO
DIE... TO
ONLY
BECOME
AN ANIMAL?

GAO...
I TOLD YOU
BEFORE THAT
RELIGION
IS A SHAM.

RELIGION
FOR THE
SAKE OF
POLITICS
...

IS
NOT
FOR
YOU.

CAN YOU UNDERSTAND
NOW WHY I ABANDONED
YOU WHEN YOU WERE
THROWN IN THE DUNGEON?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE
THE BEST SPIRITUAL
TRAINING I COULD DEVISE
FOR YOU, AND SHOULD YOU
SURVIVE IT, THAT
SPIRITUALLY YOU WOULD
BE CAPABLE OF
CARVING A TRUE
BUDDHA.

YOUR CARVINGS
BELONG TO YOU
ALONE, GAO, AND
NO ONE CAN
IMITATE OR
STEAL THEM.

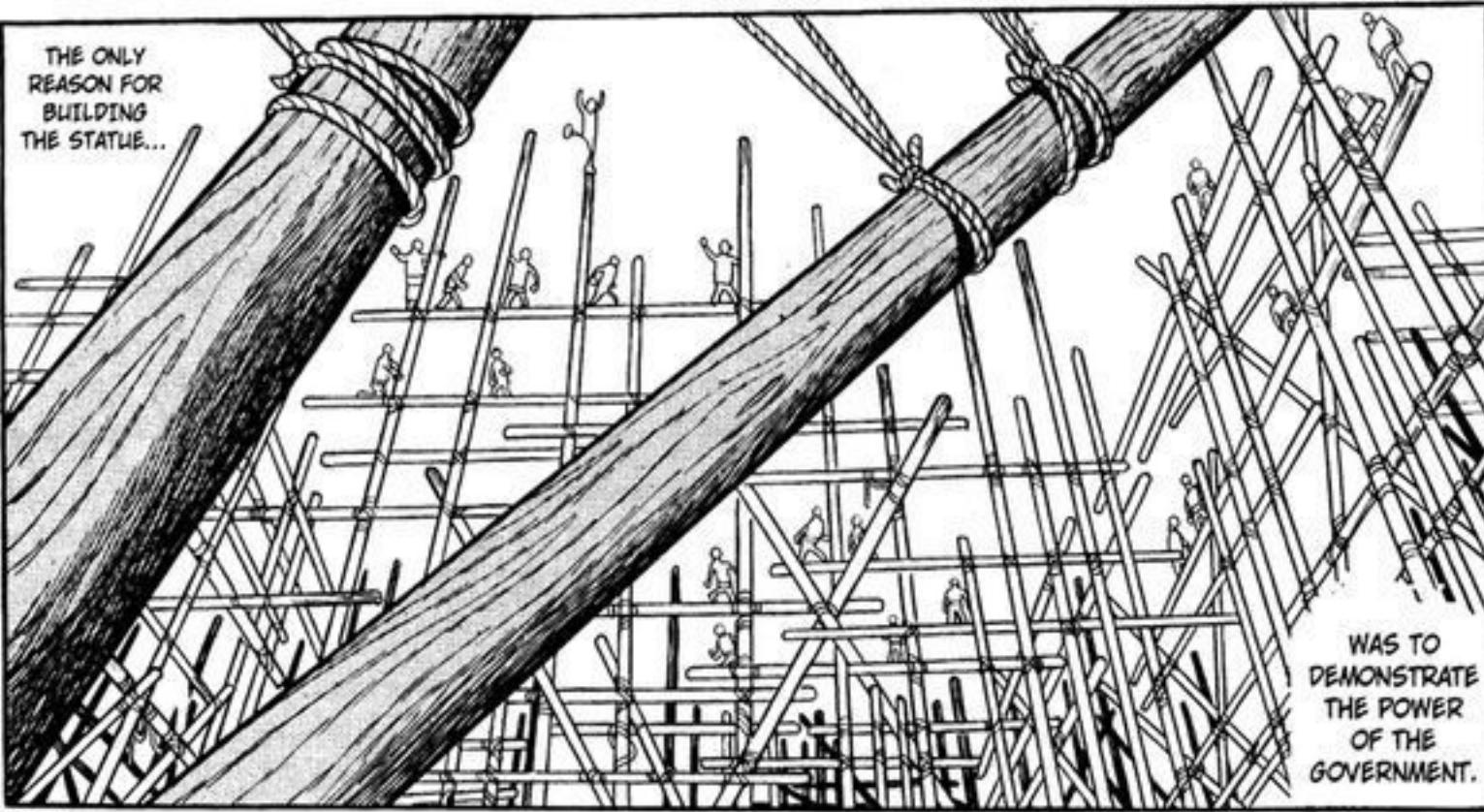
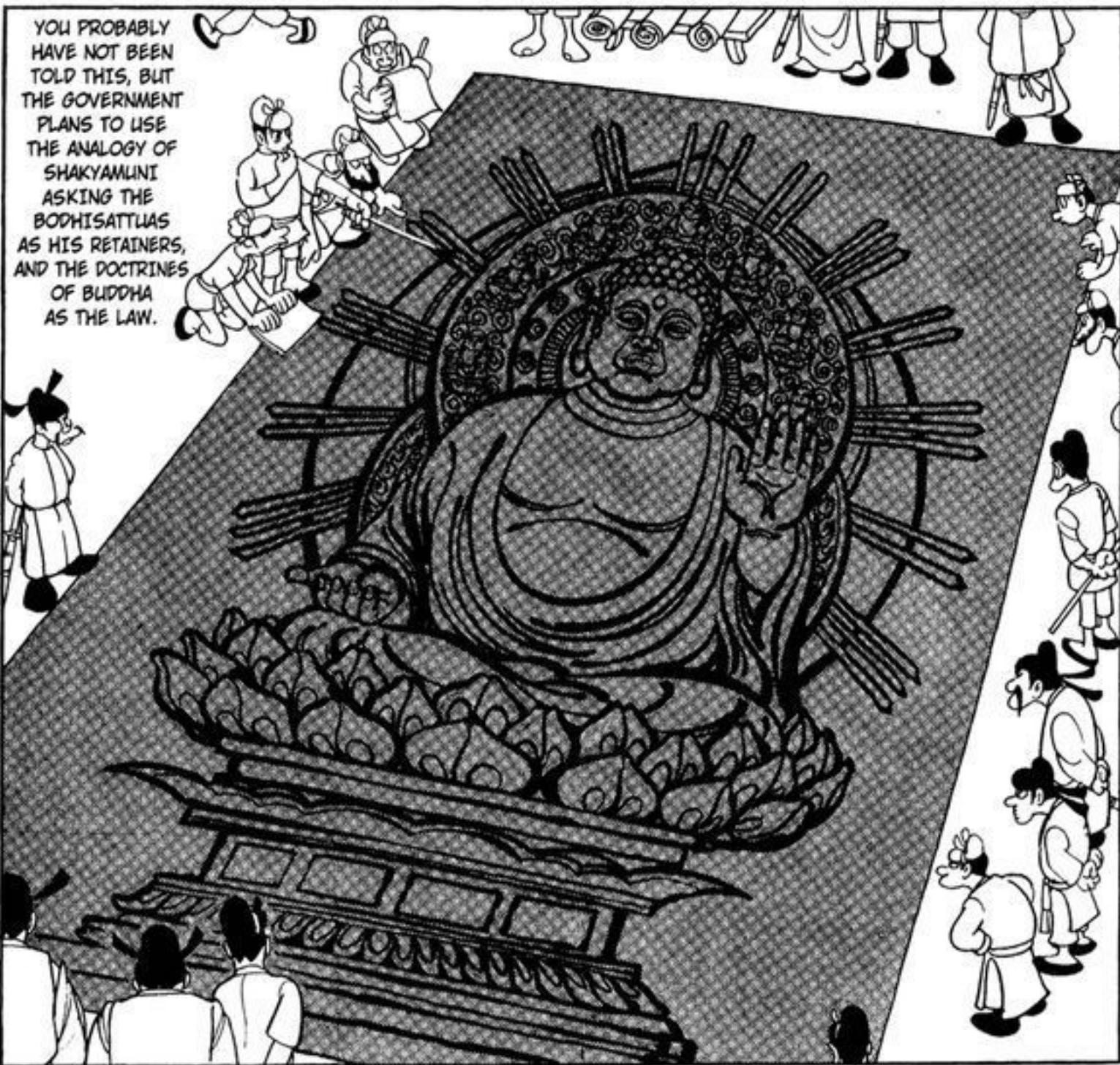
AT THIS VERY
MOMENT THEY
ARE BUILDING
THE GREAT
BUDDHA IN THE
CAPITAL. IT IS
NO DOUBT A
WONDER TO SEE,
BUT IT IS NO
MORE THAN A
SHOWPIECE!

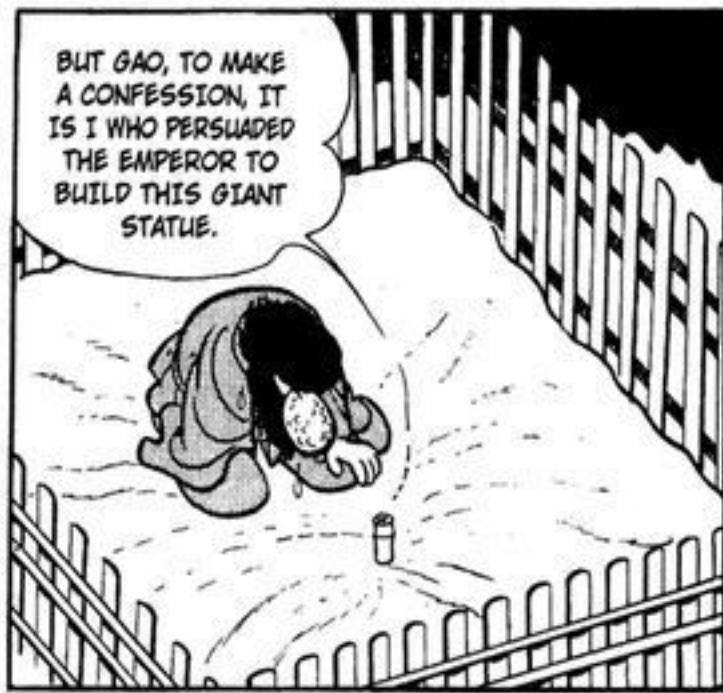
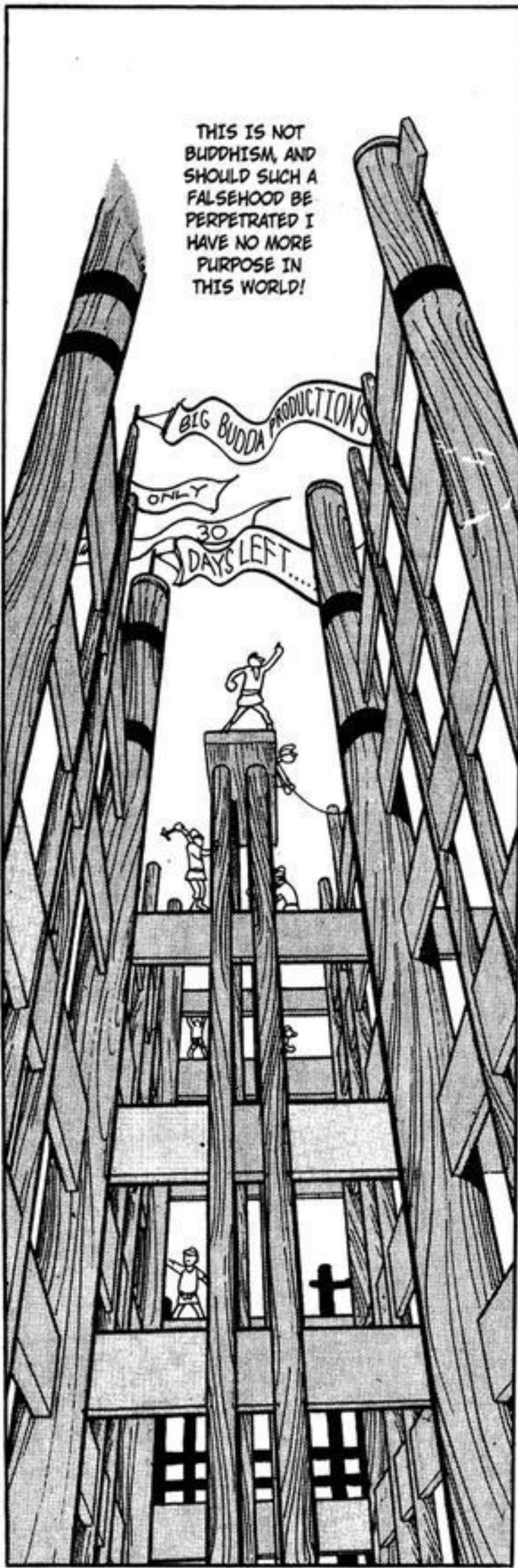


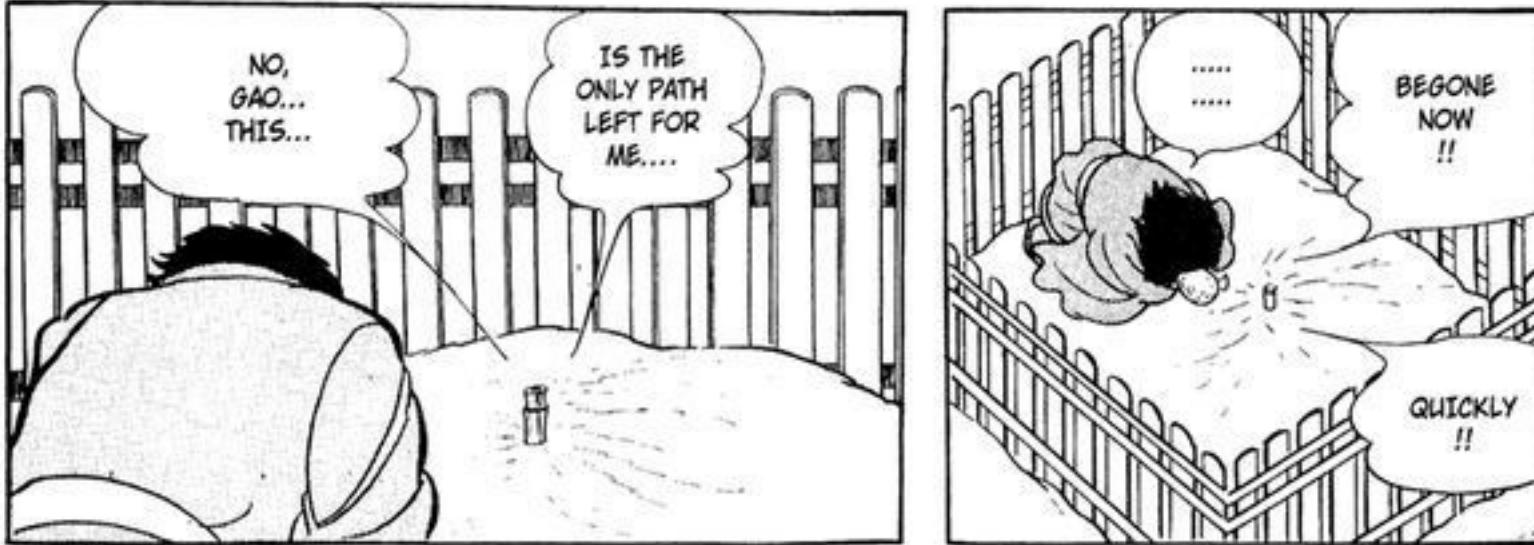
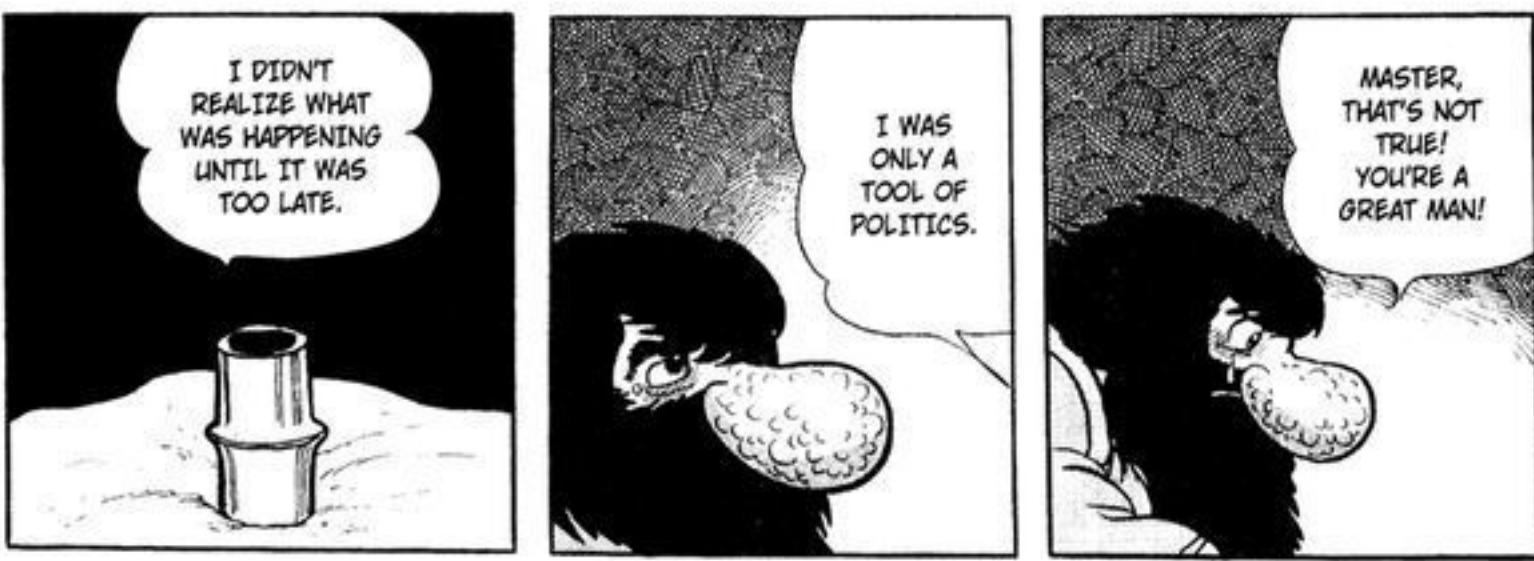
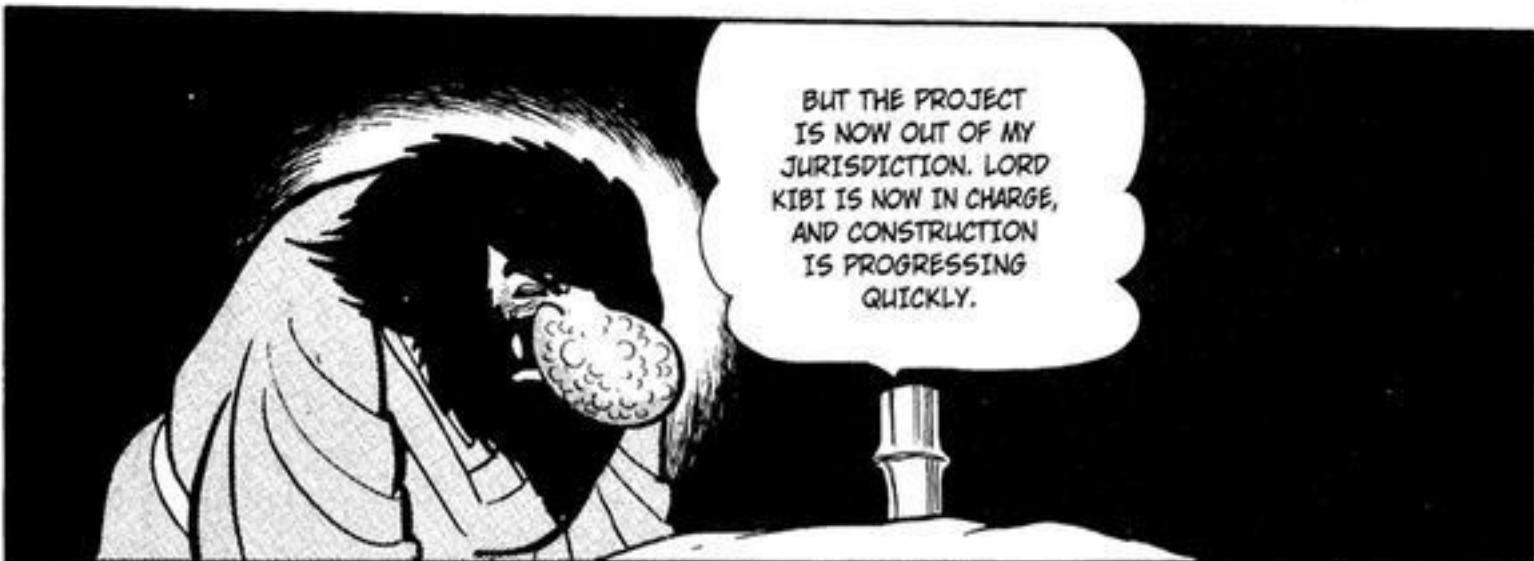
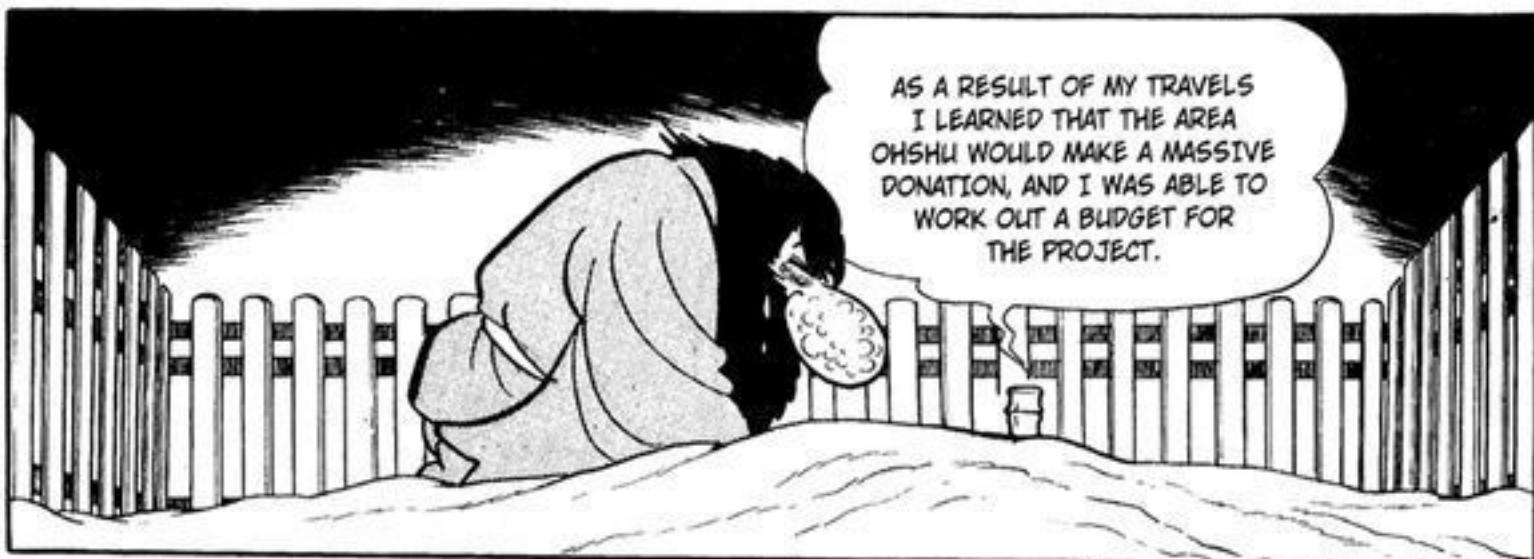
UPON ITS
COMPLETION,
THE GOVERN-
MENT WILL
STAGE AN
ELABORATE
CEREMONY*
TO PAINT IN
ITS EYES



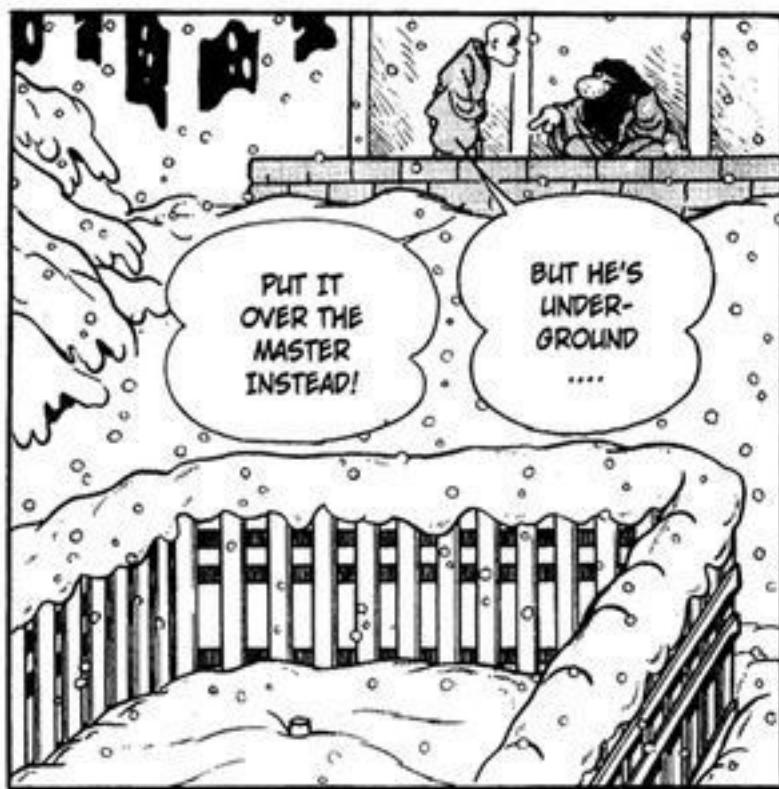
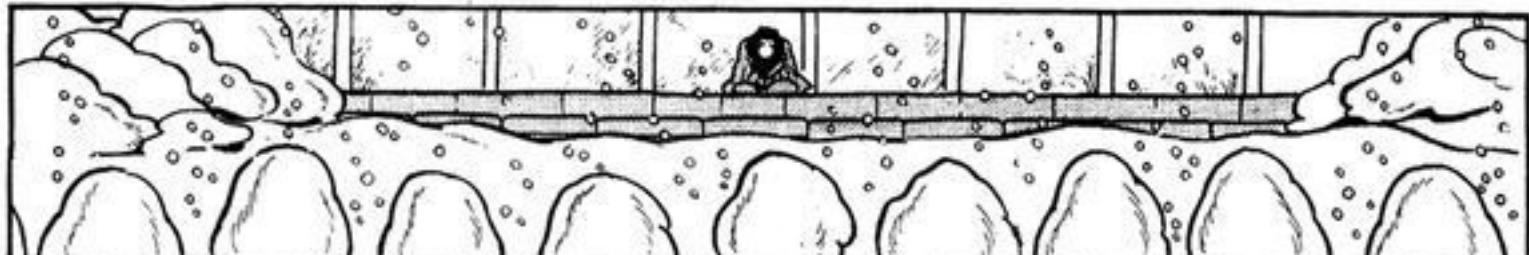
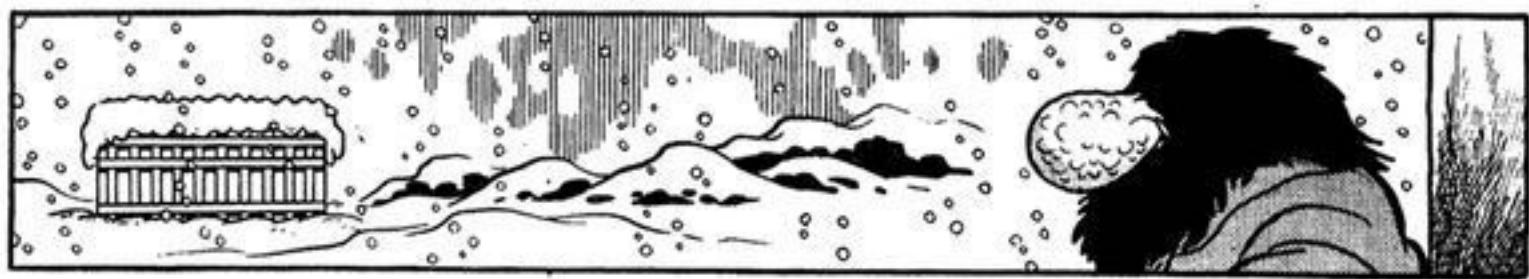
*EYE OPENING CEREMONY: IN ACTUAL HISTORY, THE EYES OF THE BUDDHA IN THE
TODAIJI WERE PAINTED IN IN 752 A.D., THIS GIVING "LIFE" TO THE STATUE.

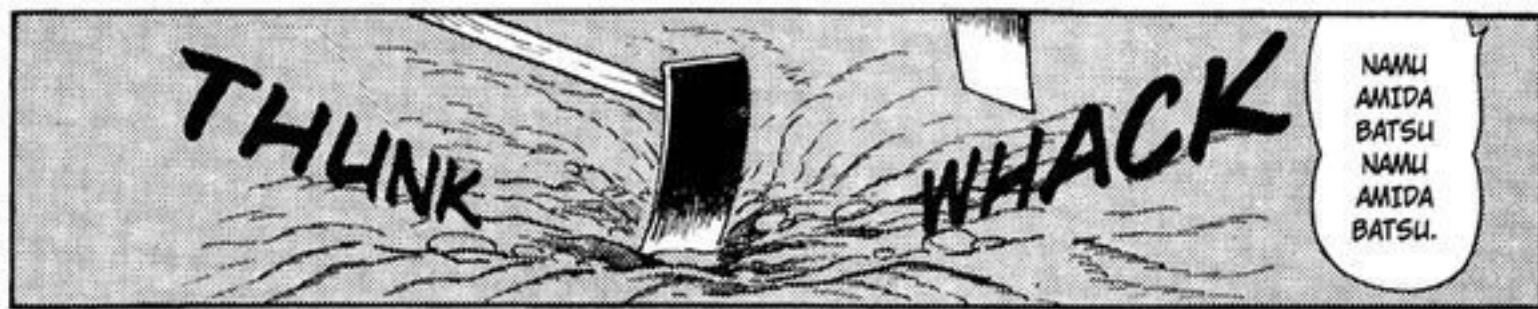


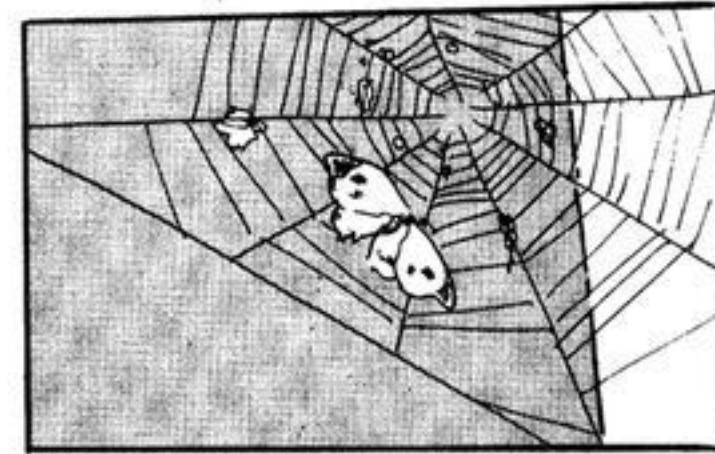


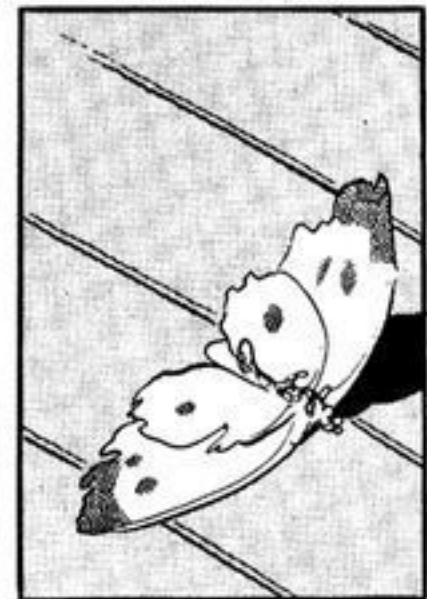


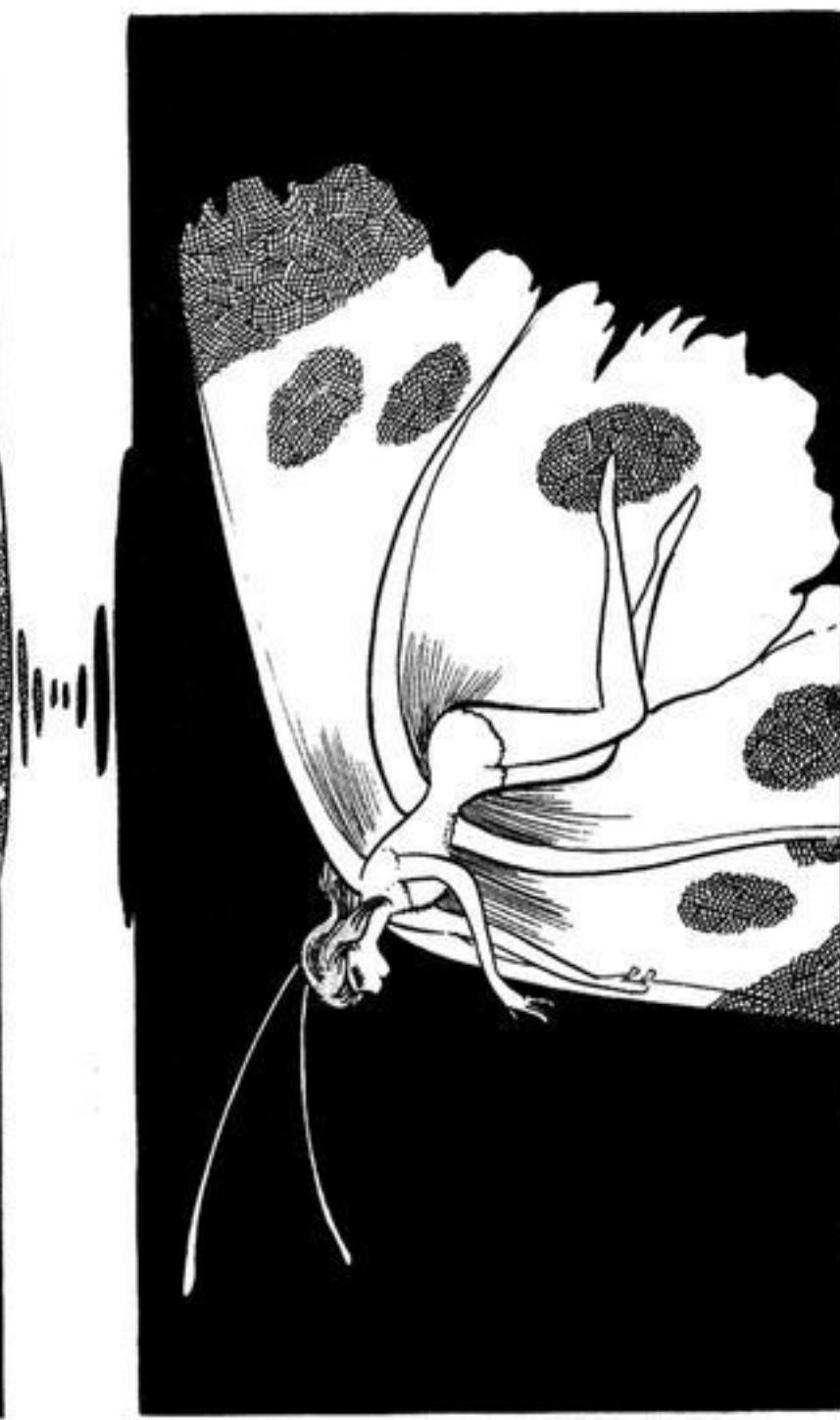
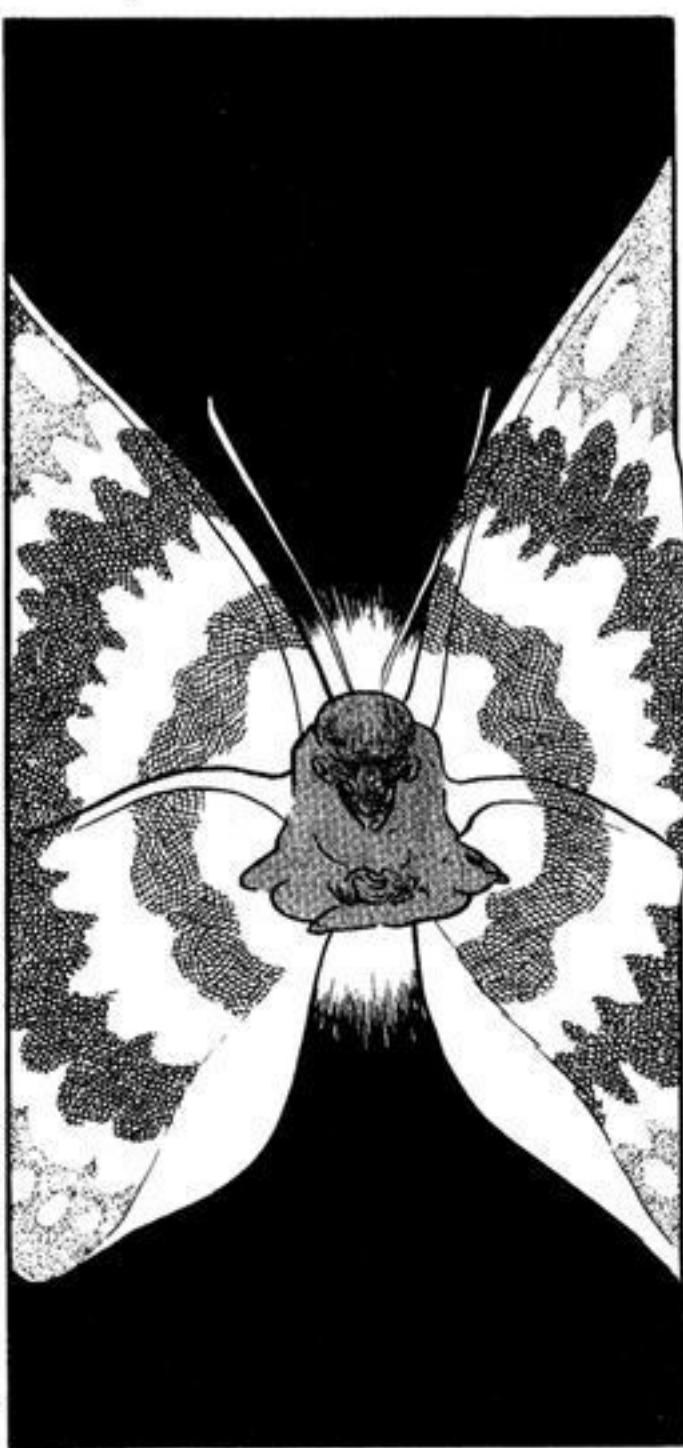


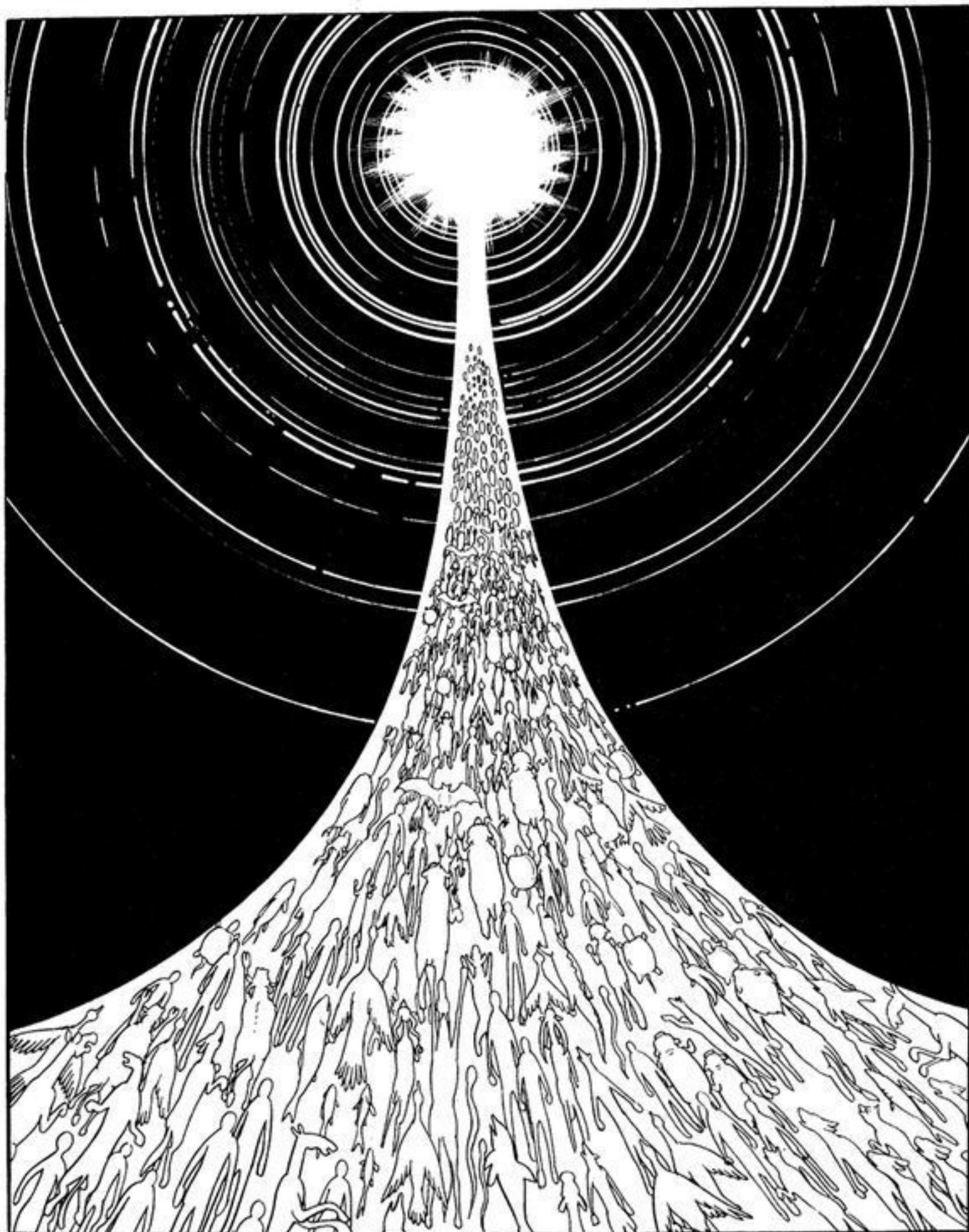


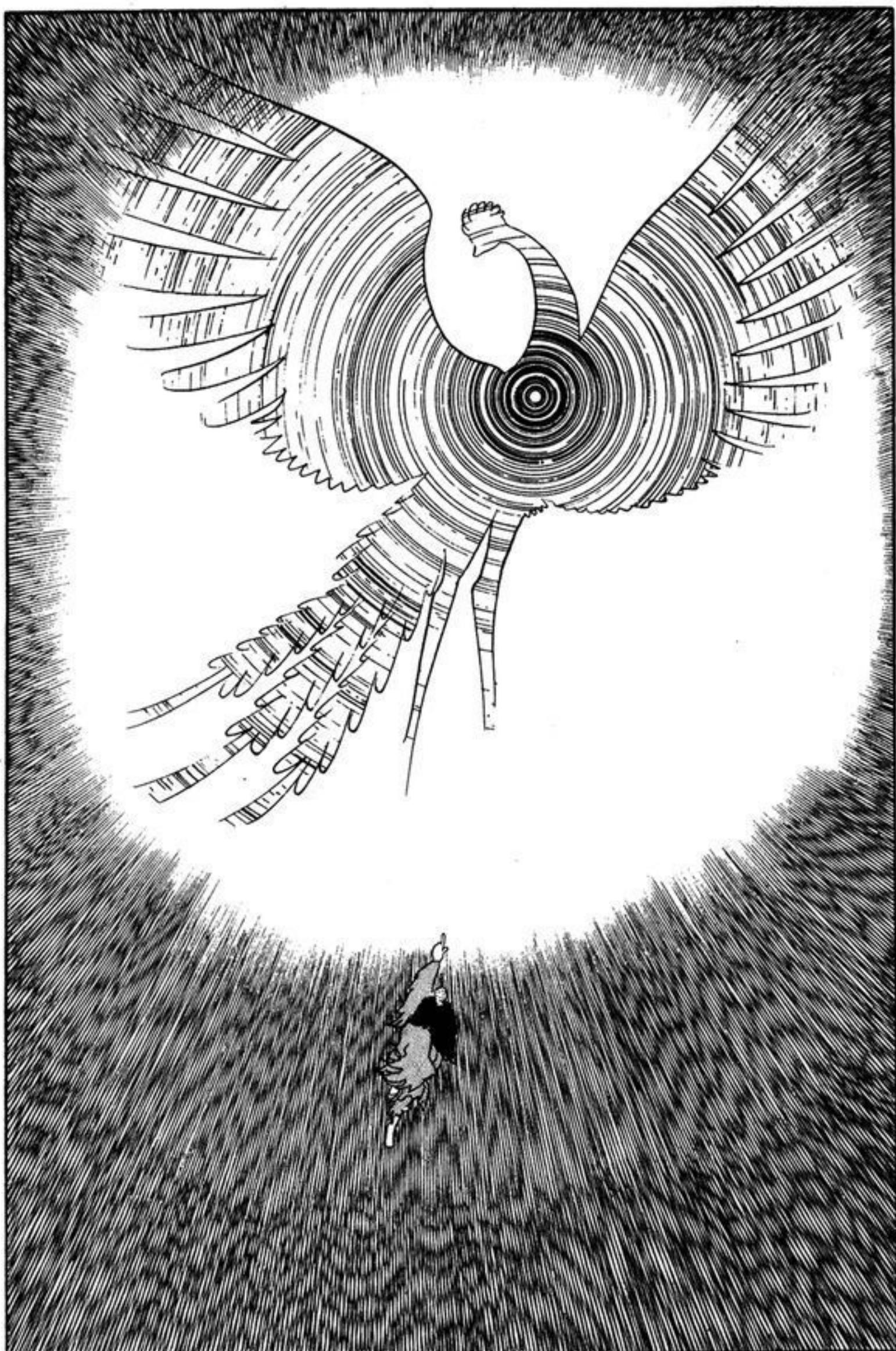


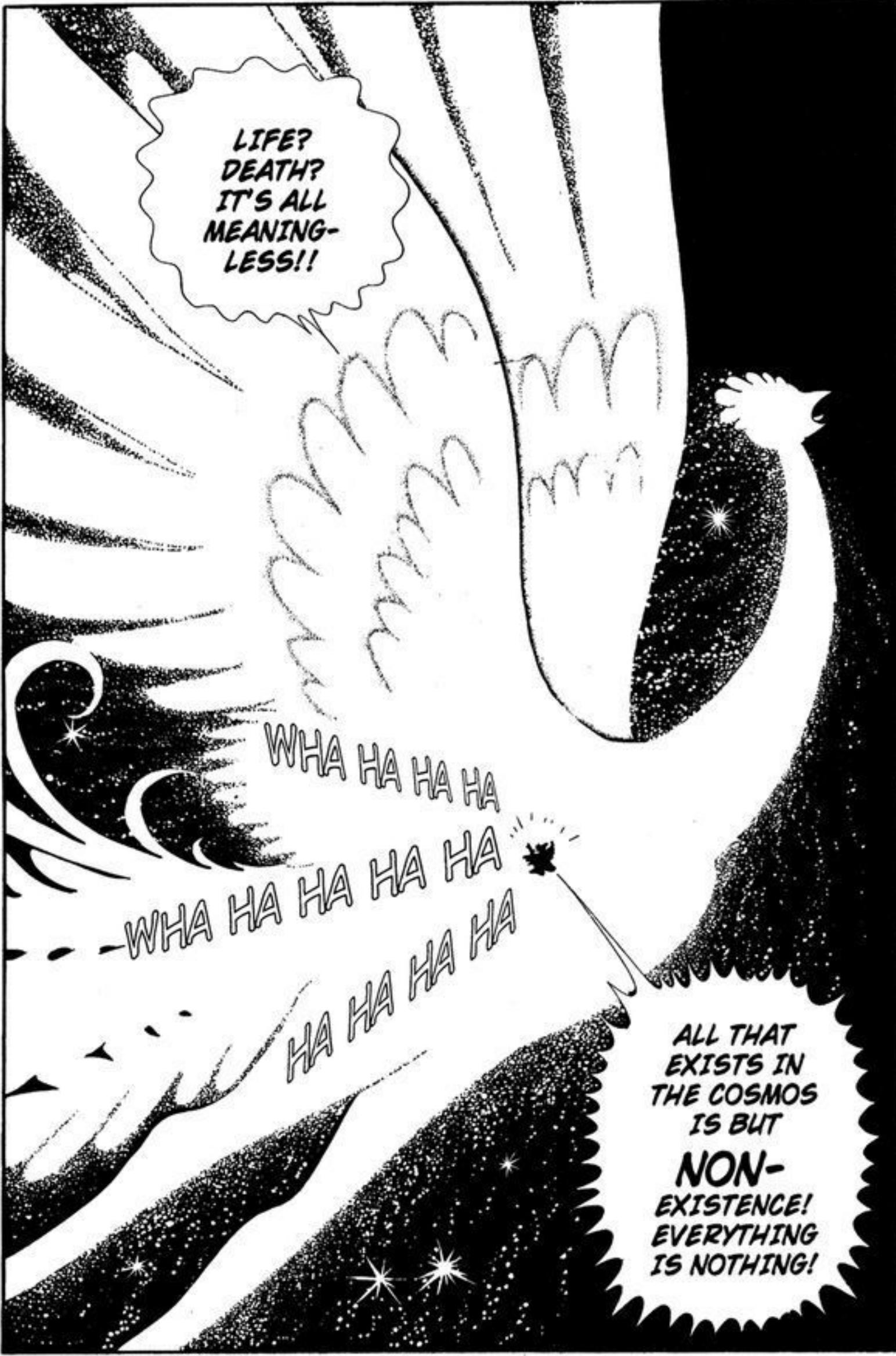








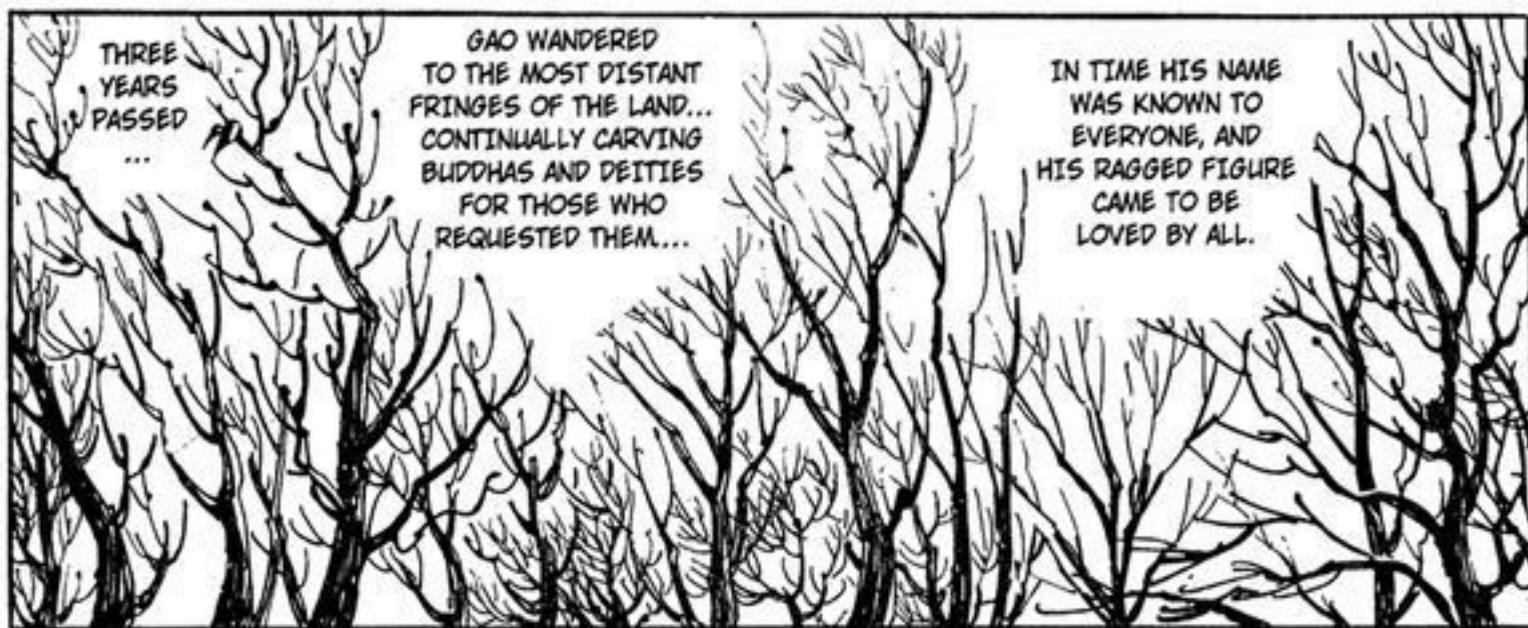




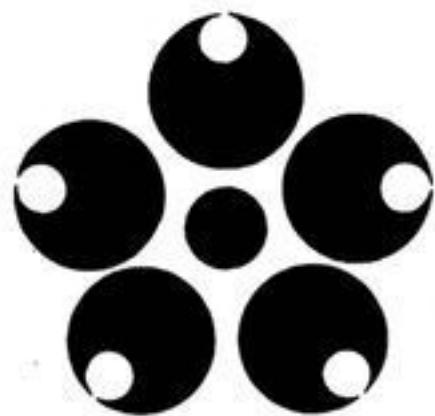
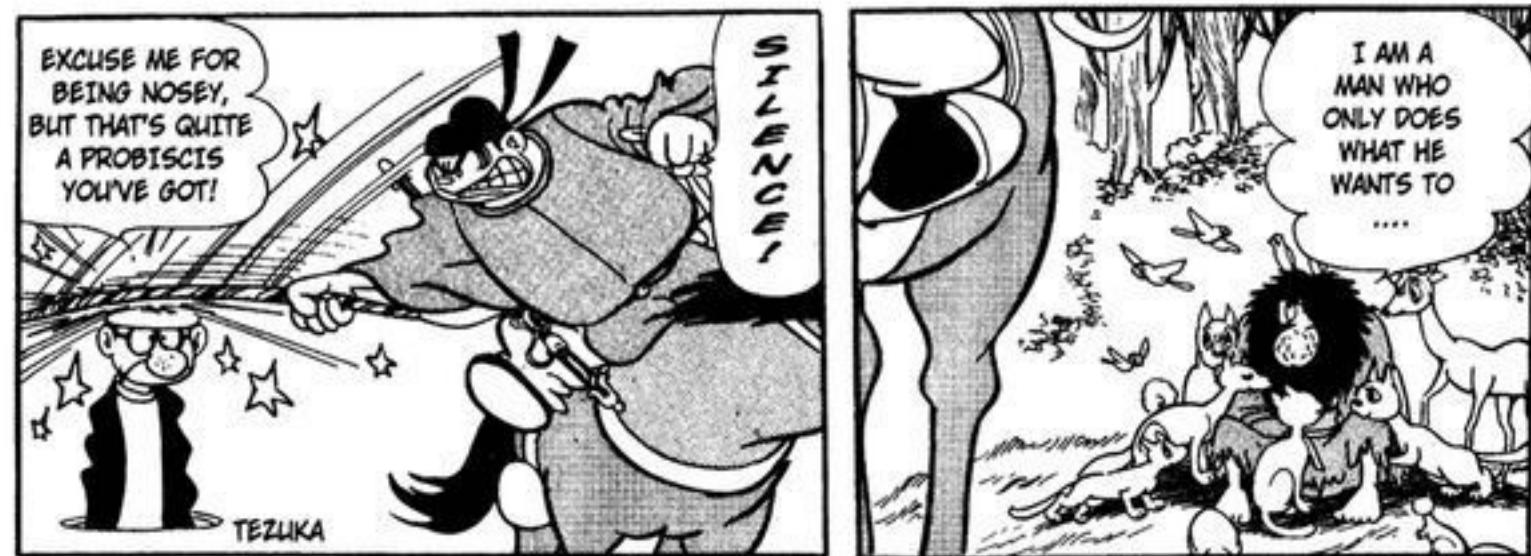
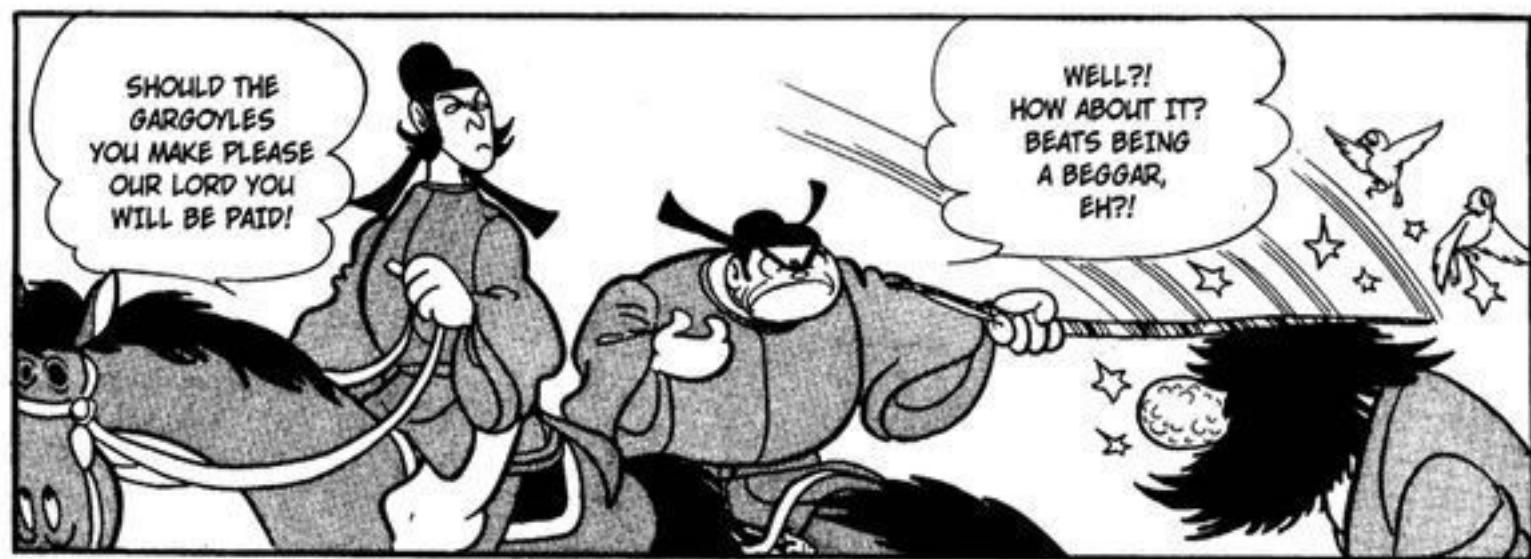
LIFE?
DEATH?
IT'S ALL
MEANING-
LESS!!

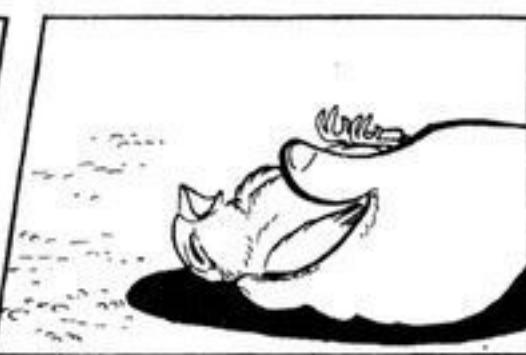
ALL THAT
EXISTS IN
THE COSMOS
IS BUT
NON-
EXISTENCE!
EVERYTHING
IS NOTHING!

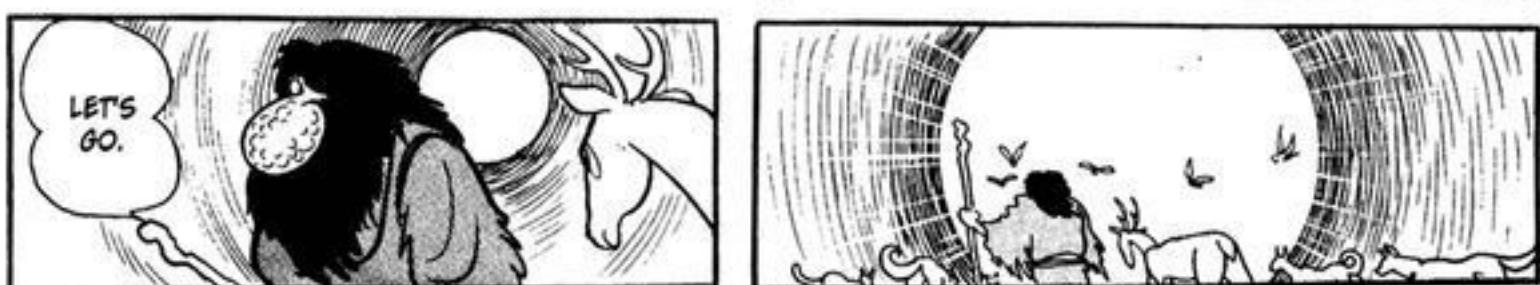
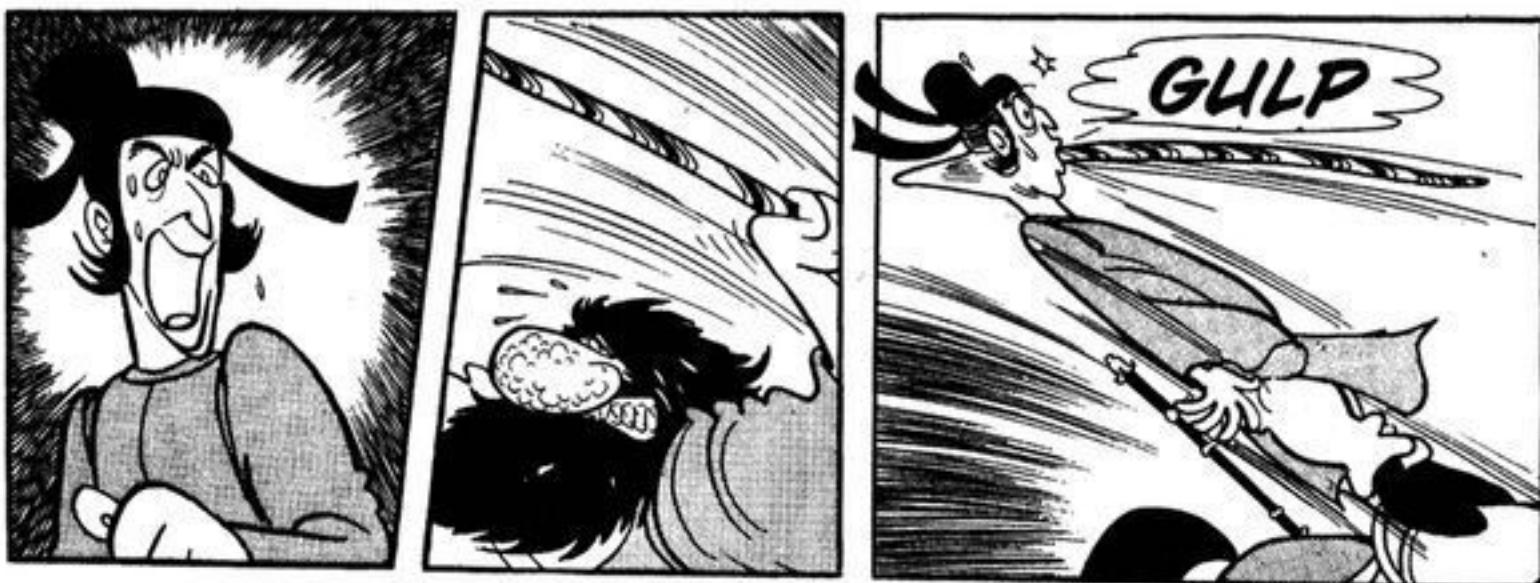


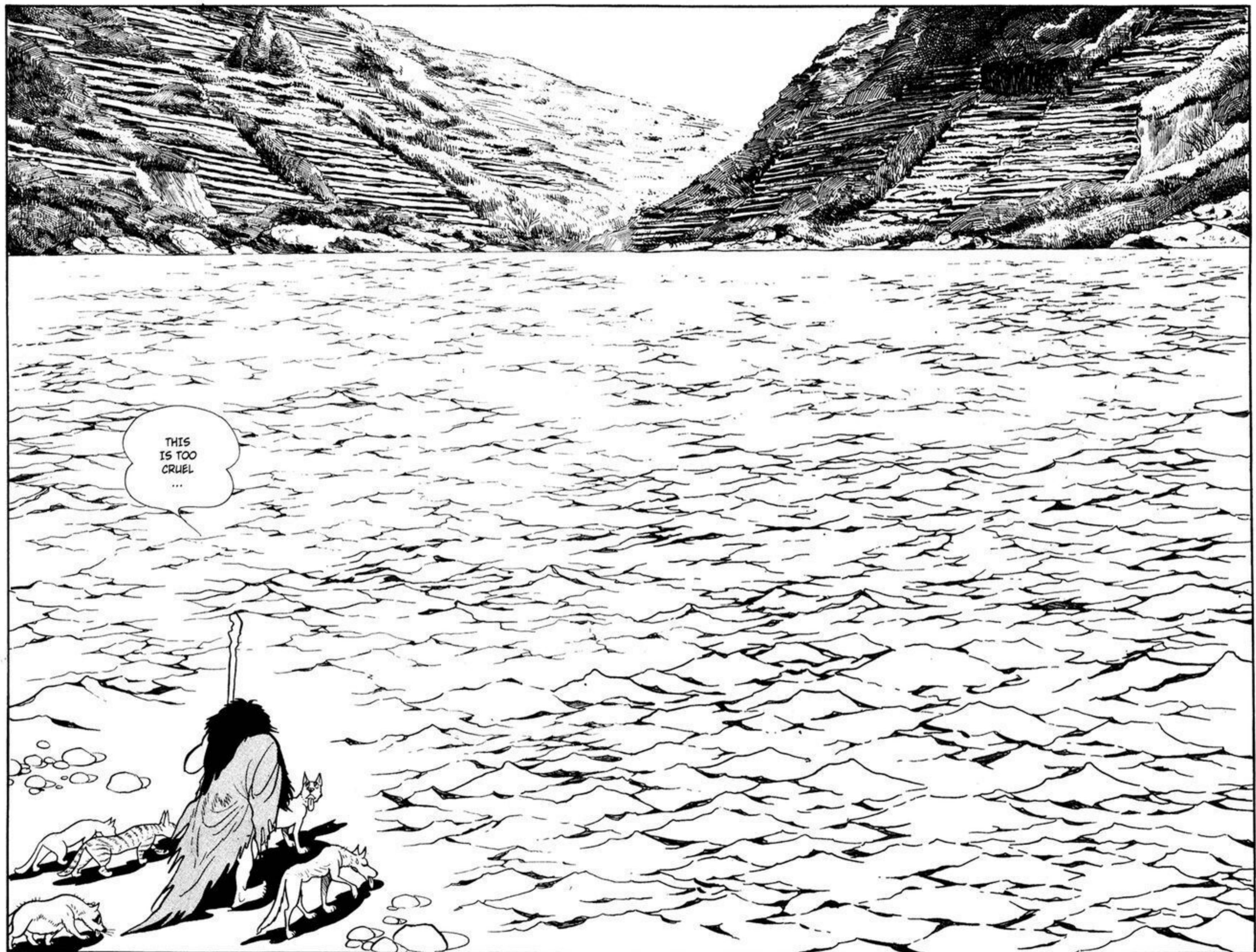










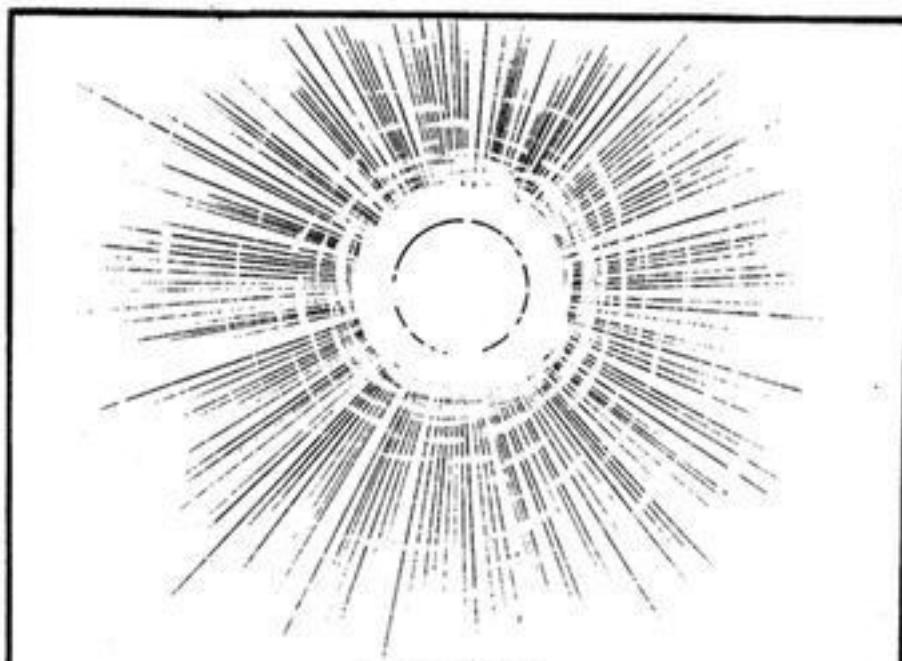




ANIMALS CAME DOWN
FROM THE MOUNTAINS
IN FLOCKS SEARCHING
FOR WATER... THEY
TRAMPLED OVER THE
FARMLANDS, ONLY TO
DIE AS THE FARMER'S
OXEN HAD... BY THE
BANK OF A PARCHED
RIVER BED.



THE DROUGHT
WAS NOT LIMITED
ONLY TO THE
COUNTRYSIDE....
THE CAPITAL TOO
SWELTERED IN
INSUFFERABLE
HEAT....



CONSTRUCTION
CONTINUED IN SPITE
OF THE DROUGHT,
AND ALTHOUGH WORKERS
DIED IN HUGE NUMBERS
FROM AN OUTBREAK OF
THE PLAGUE, THE HALL
HOUSING THE GIANT
BUDDHA MIRACULOUSLY
APPROACHED COMPLETION.



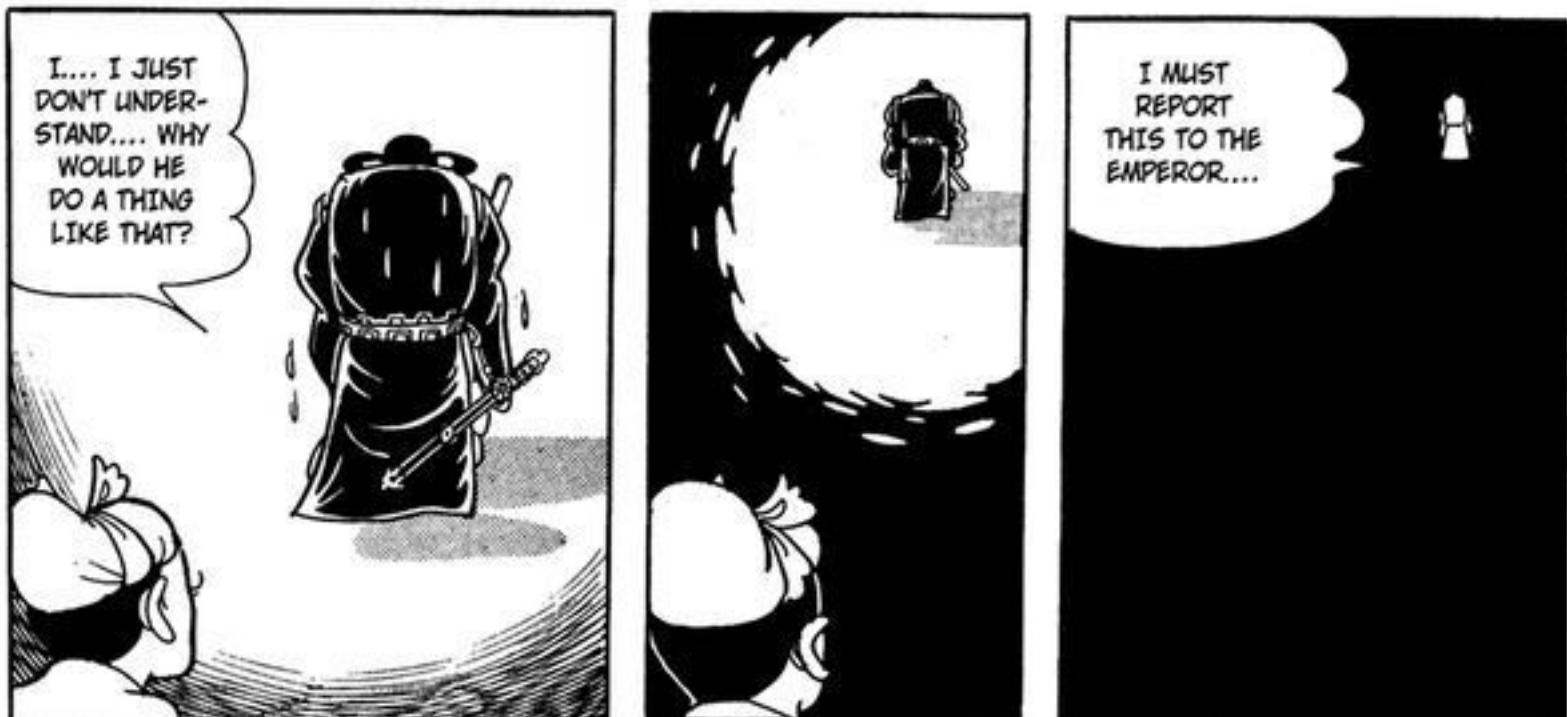
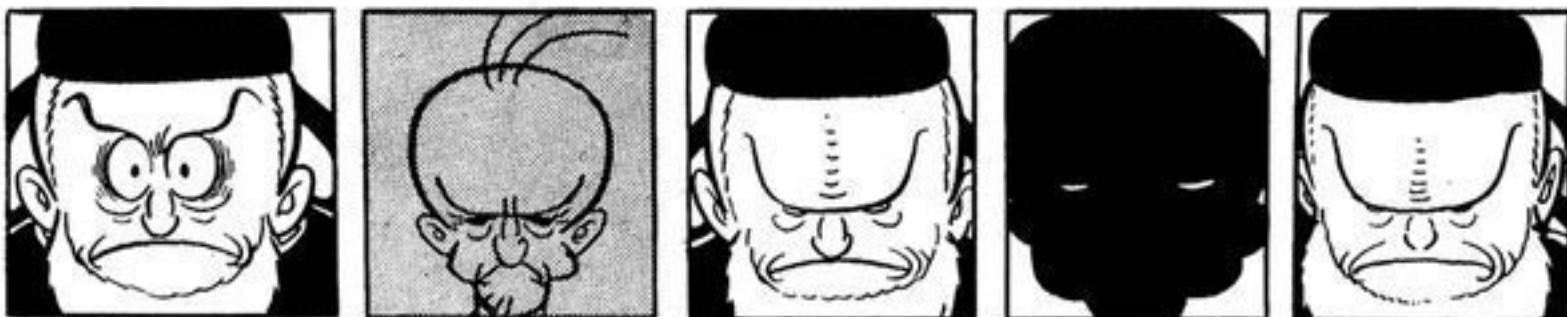


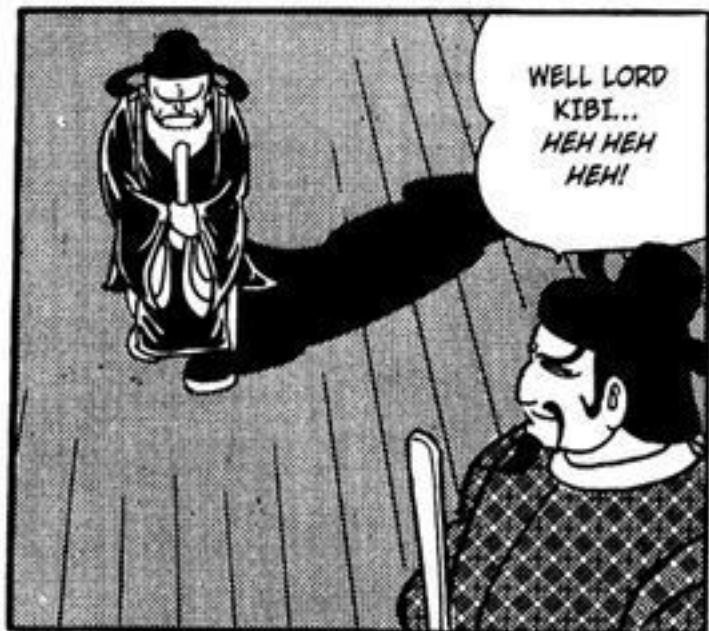


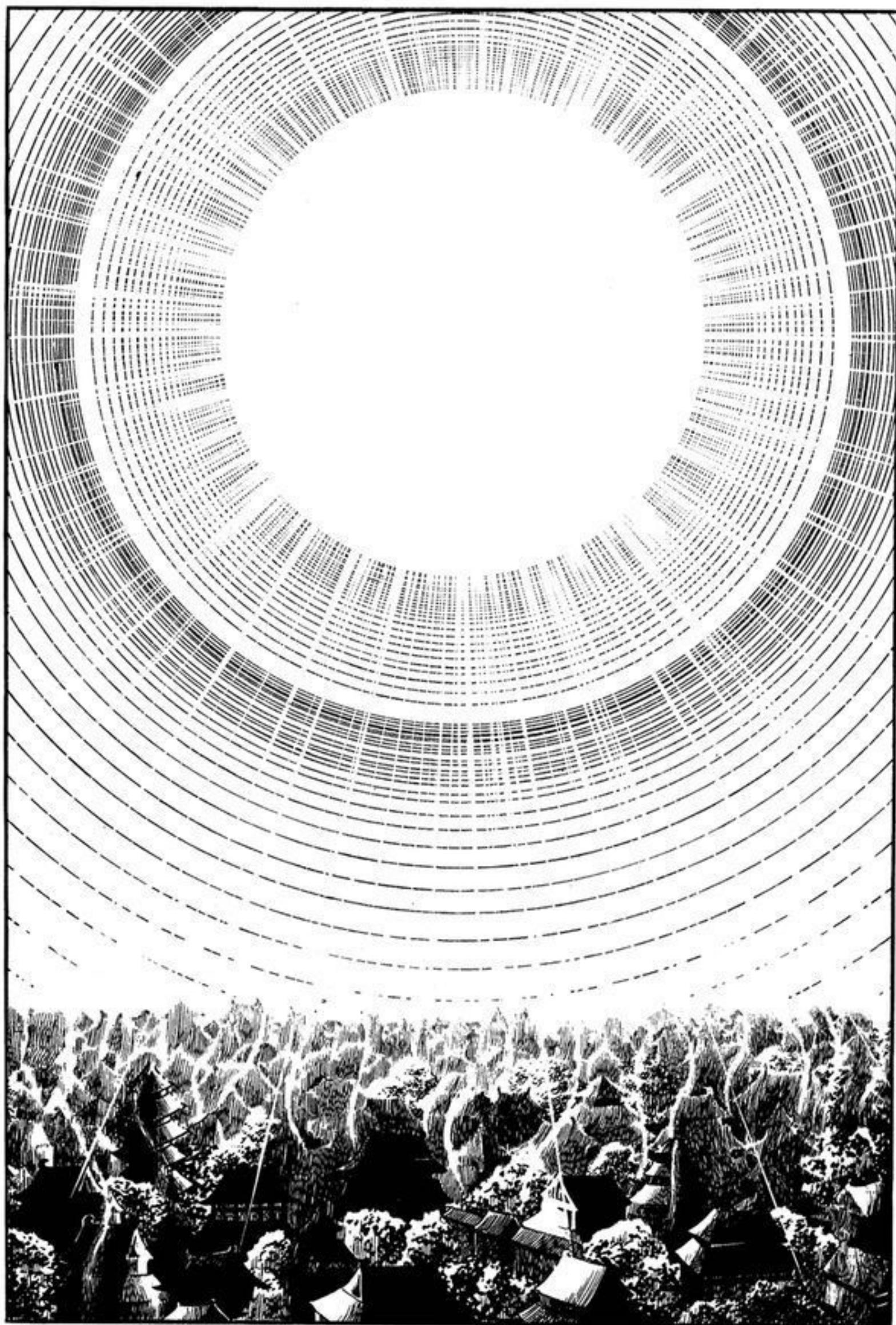
AS THE PROJECT NEARED COMPLETION, CONSTRUCTION PROCEEDED THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT WITHOUT REGARD FOR SLEEP OR REST OF THE WORKERS. SMALL FIRES THEY LIT IN THE HALL FOR ILLUMINATION CAUSED AN UPDRAFT, AND THE ACCOMPANYING WATER VAPOR CONDENSED ON THE BROAD FOREHEAD OF THE BUDDHA. AT NIGHT THIS MOISTURE COLLECTED ON THE EYELIDS OF THE STATUE AND THEN, OVERFLOWING, CAUSED MEN TO THINK THE BUDDHA WAS WEEPING.

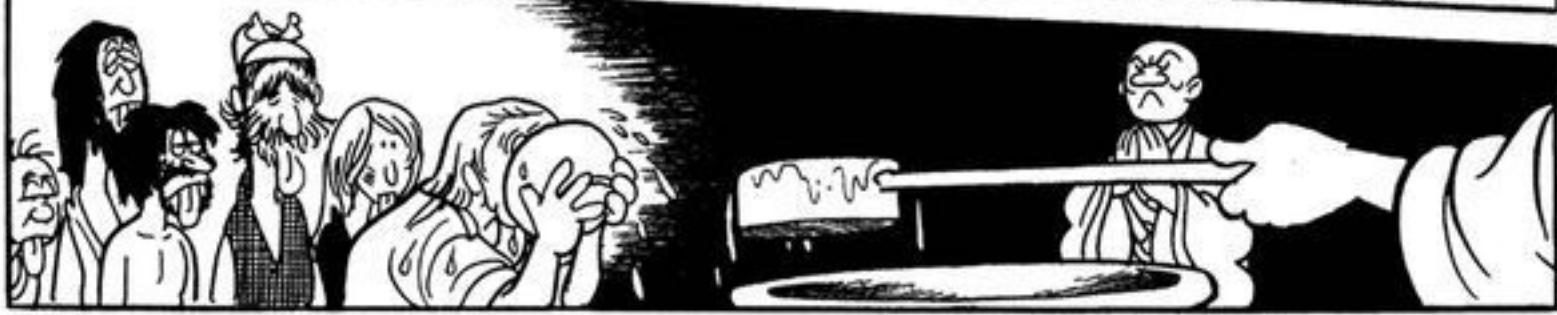


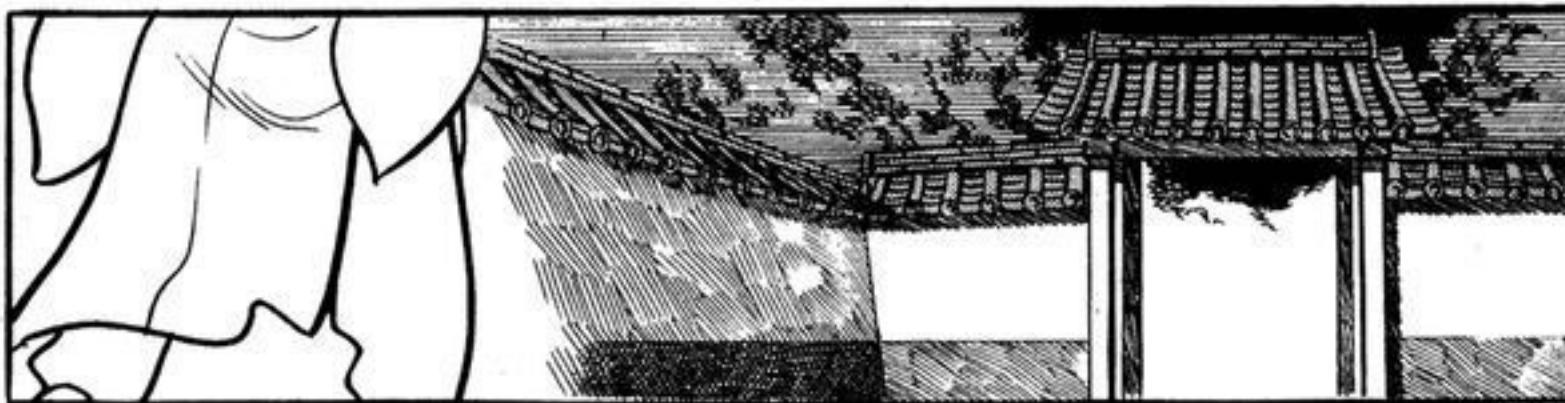


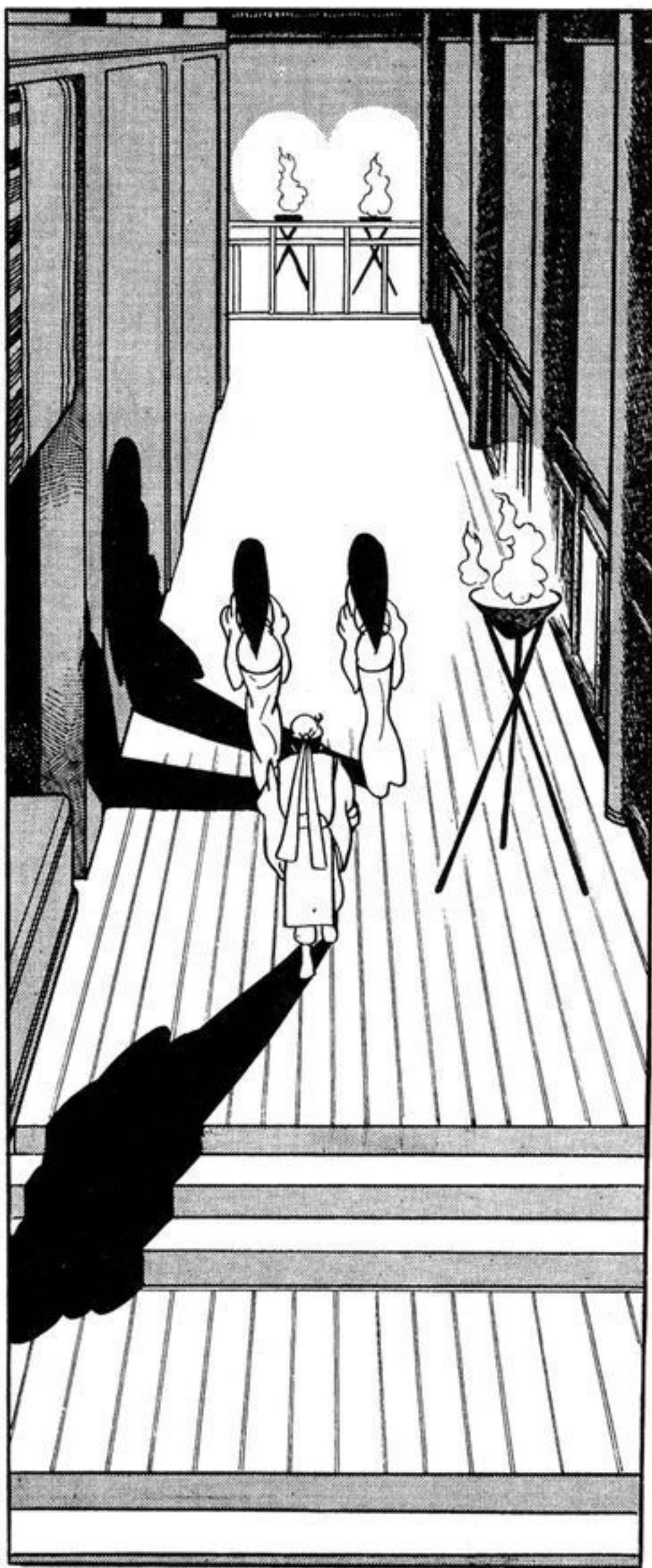


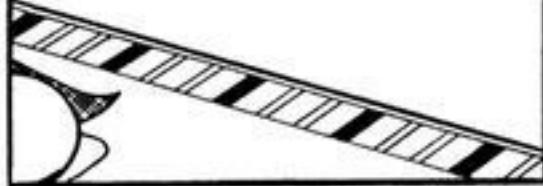
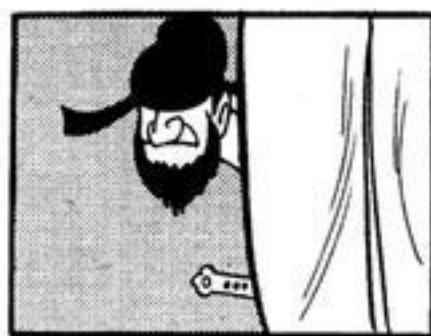


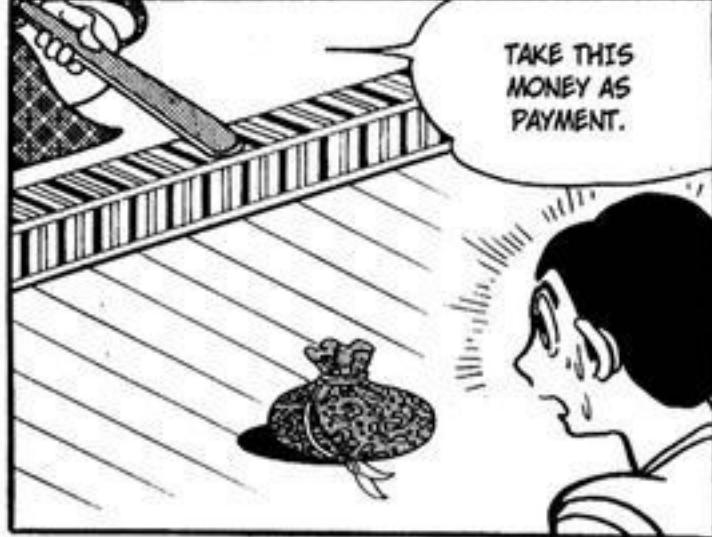


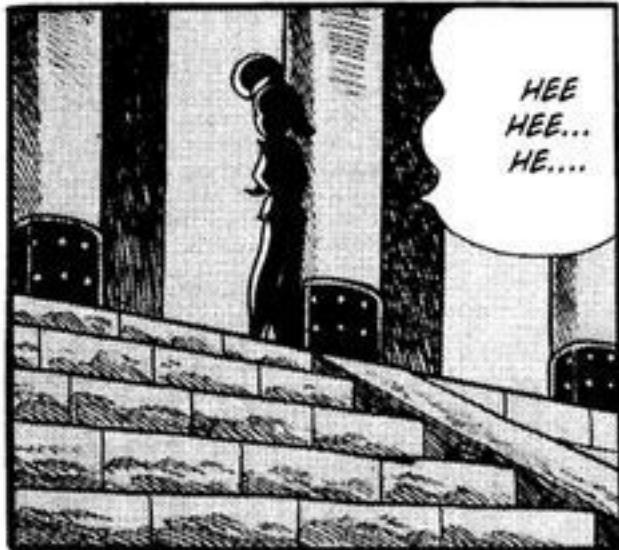
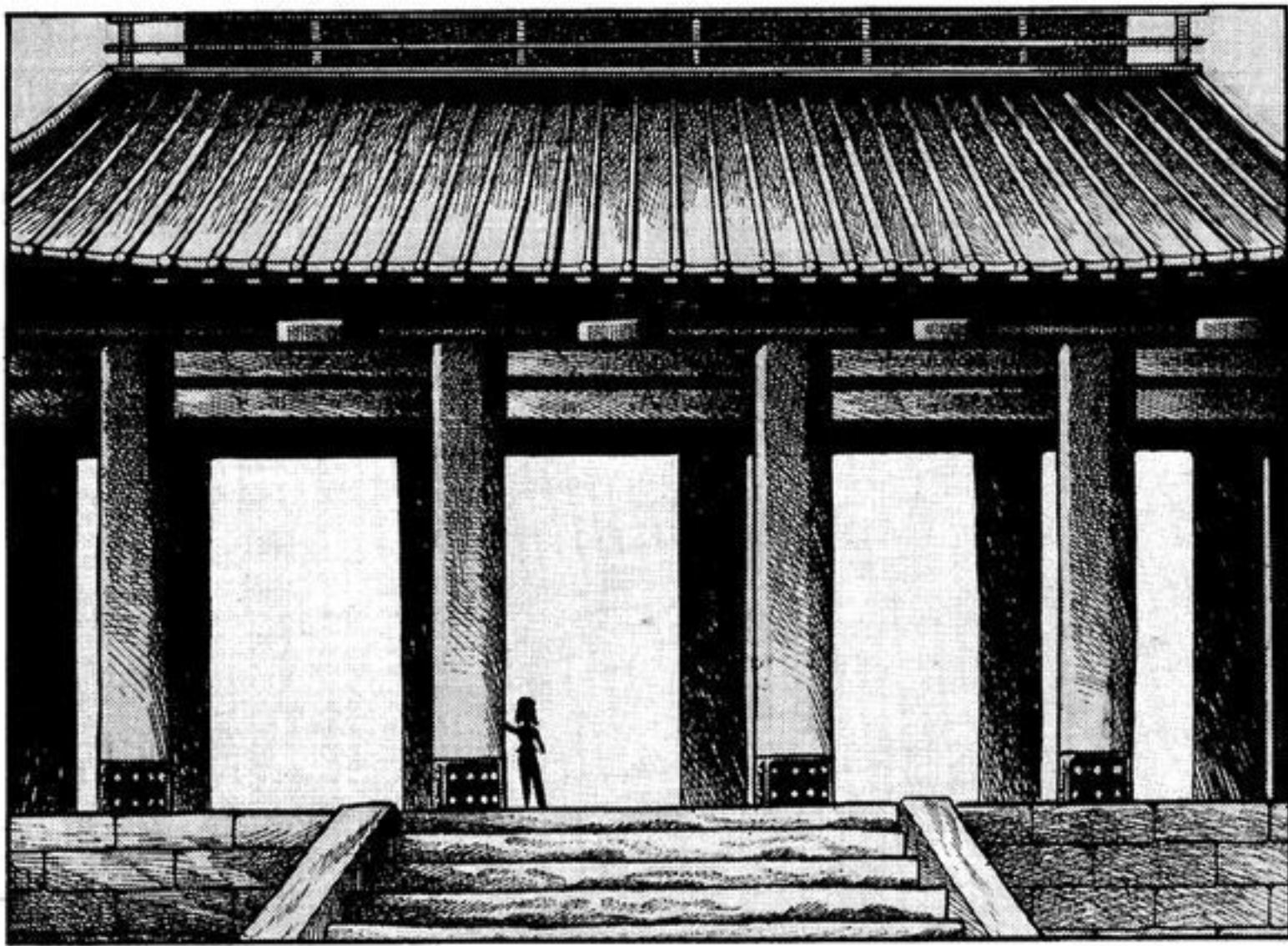






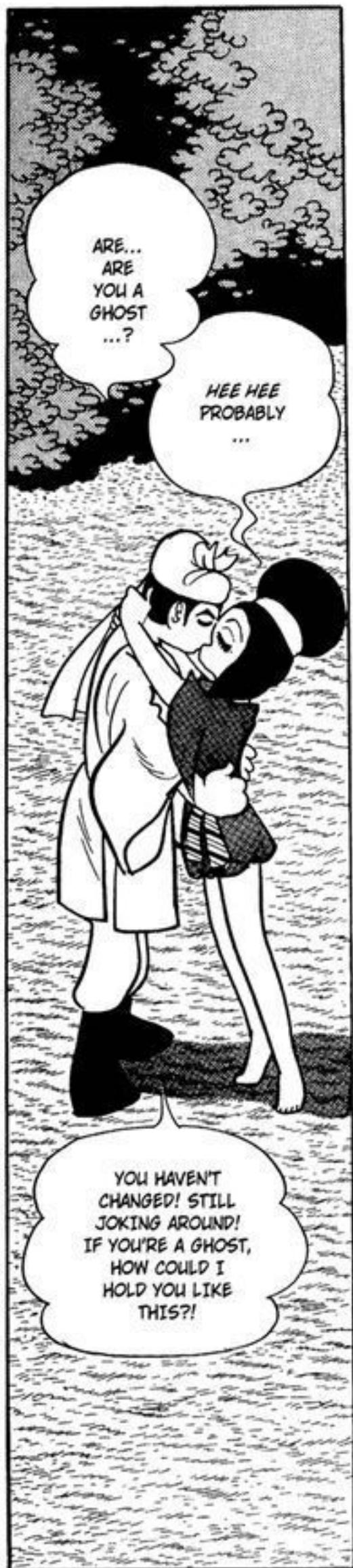


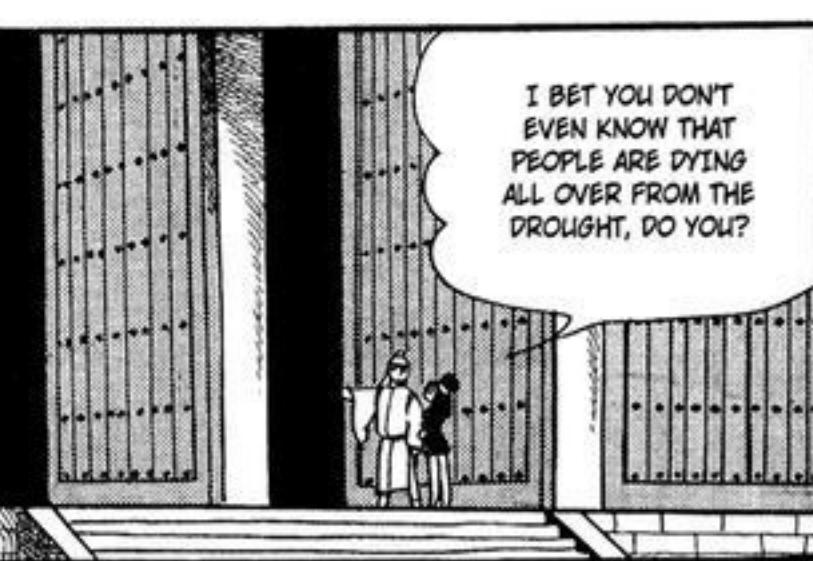


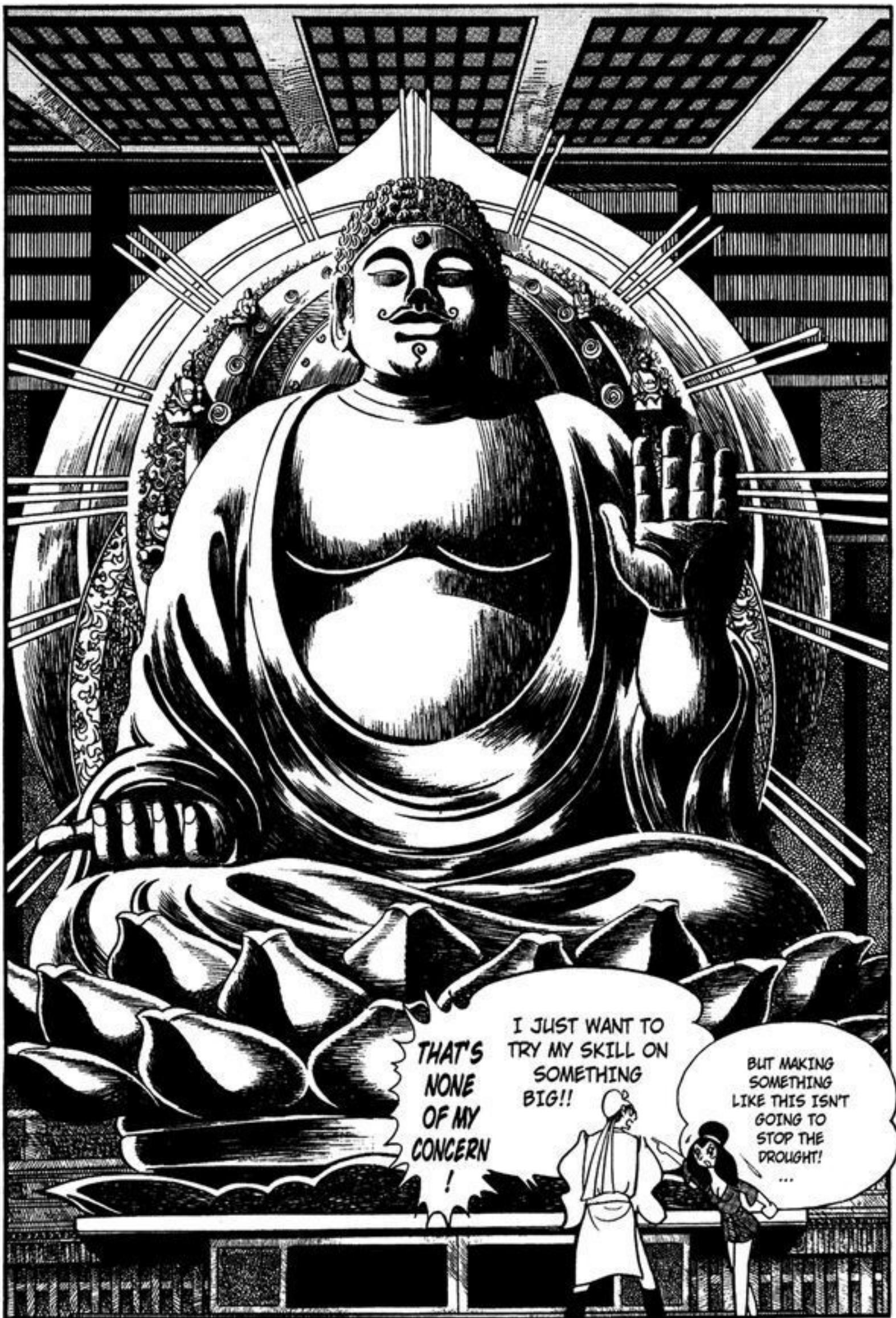




BUCHI !





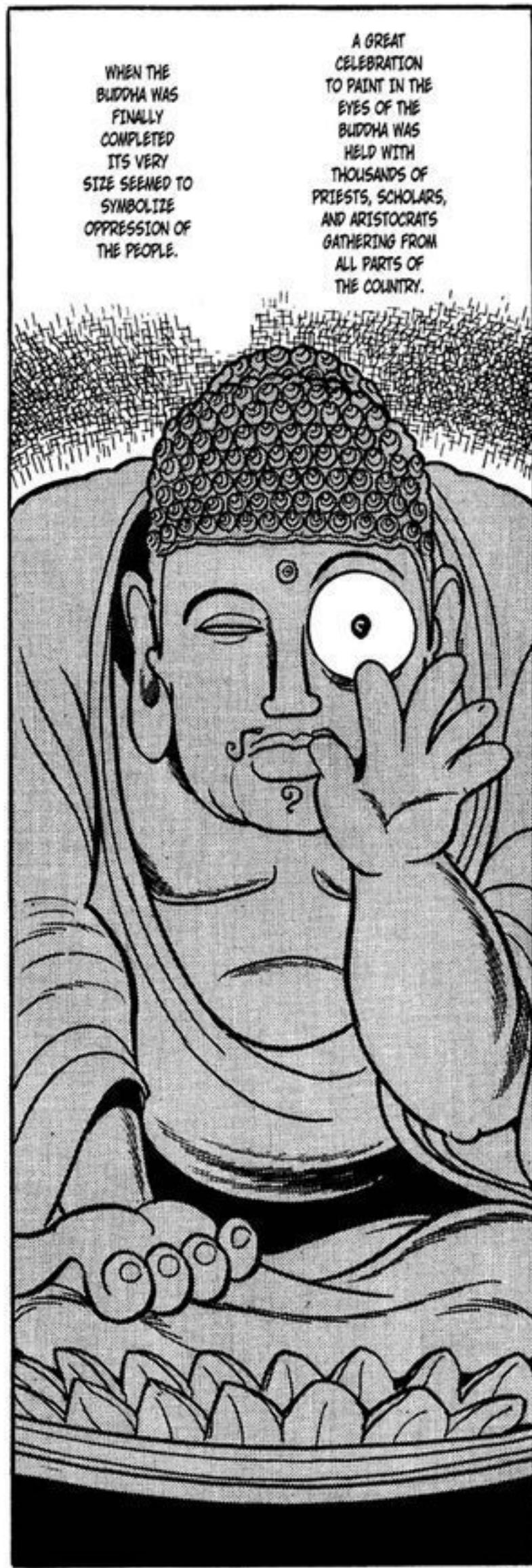




I'LL SHOW
YOU HOW
IMPORTANT
THIS BUDDHA
IS!

BUCHI!
STOP!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

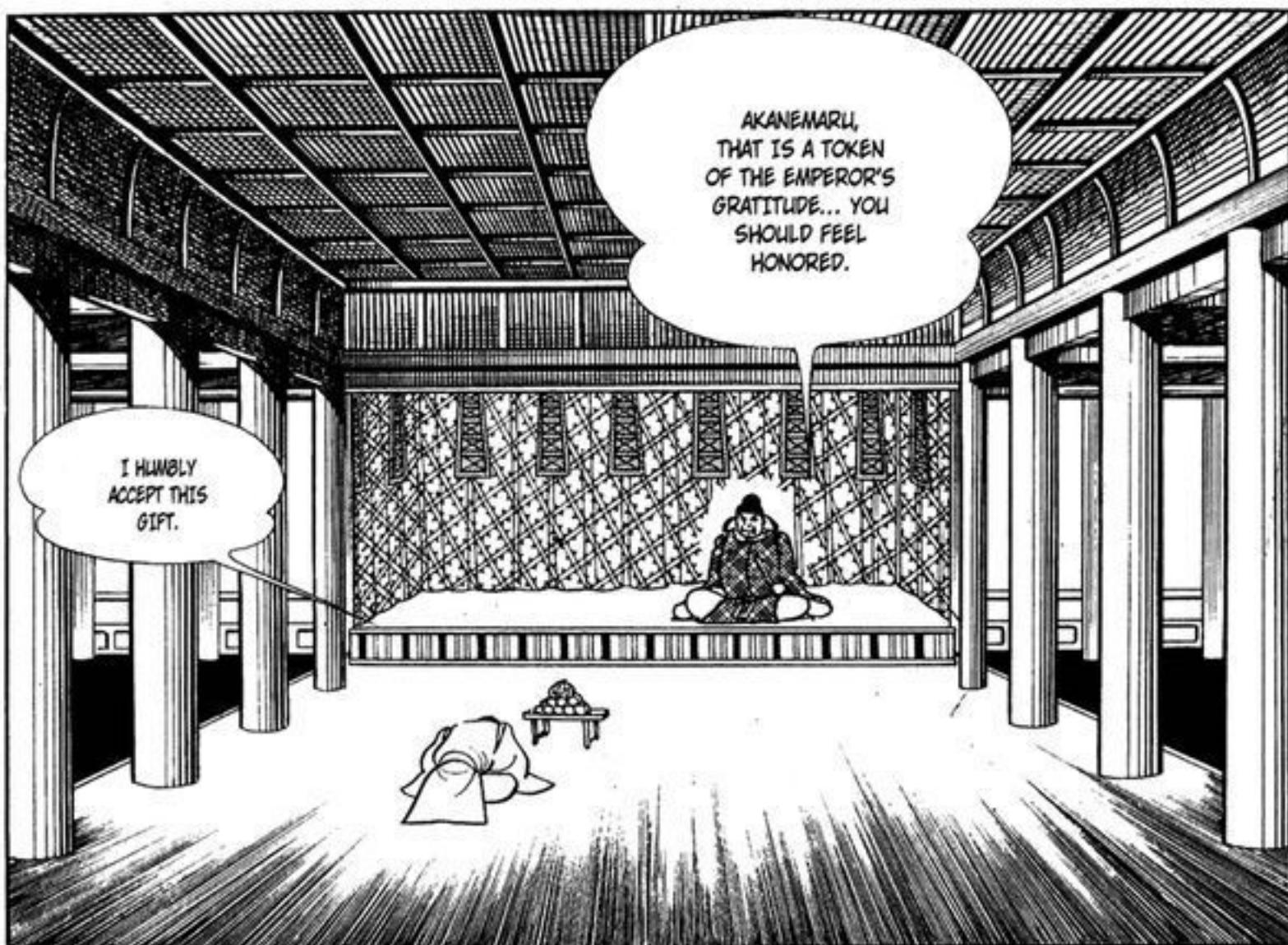


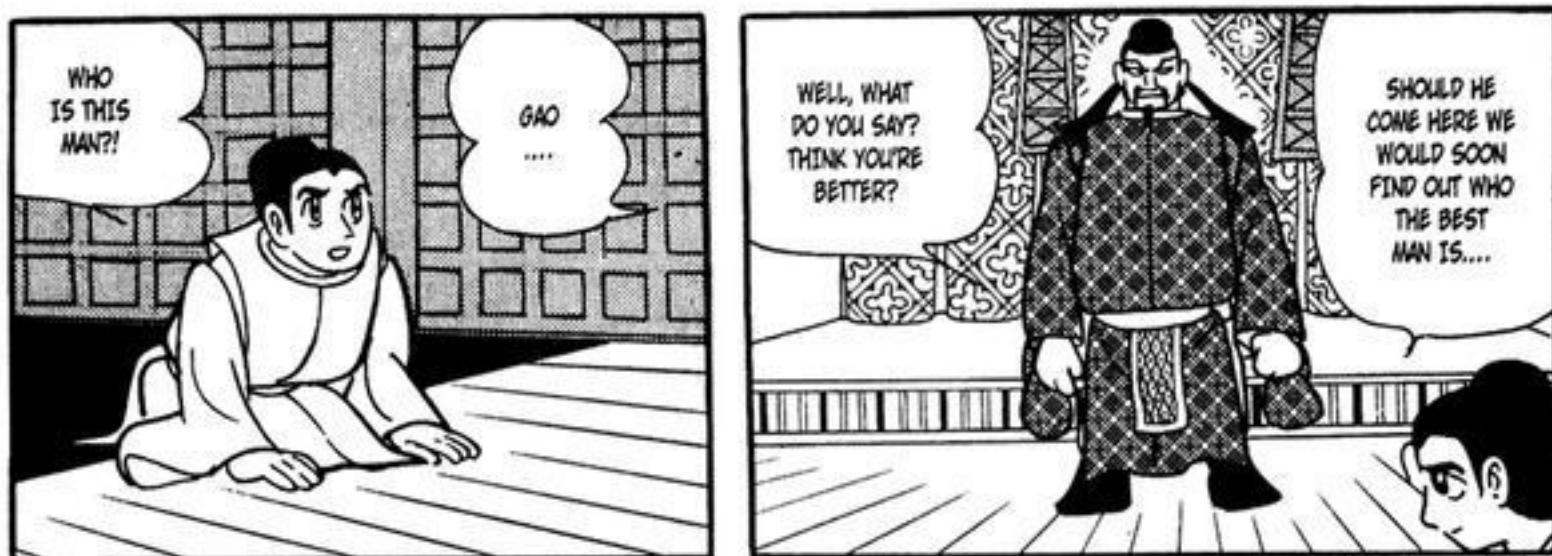


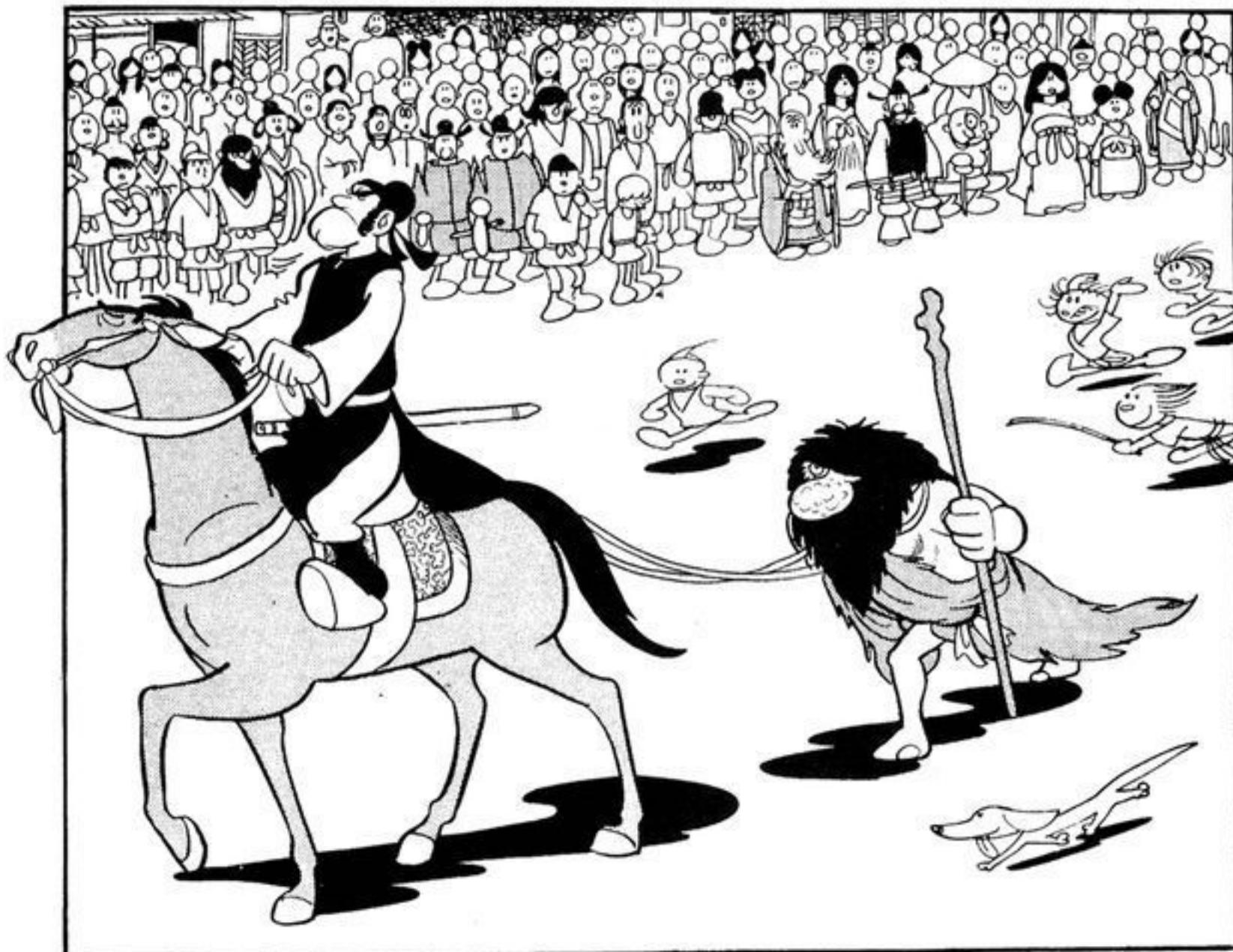
THE CAPITAL
OF NARA
FLOURISHED
AND BLOSSOMED
FORTH LIKE
A FLOWER...

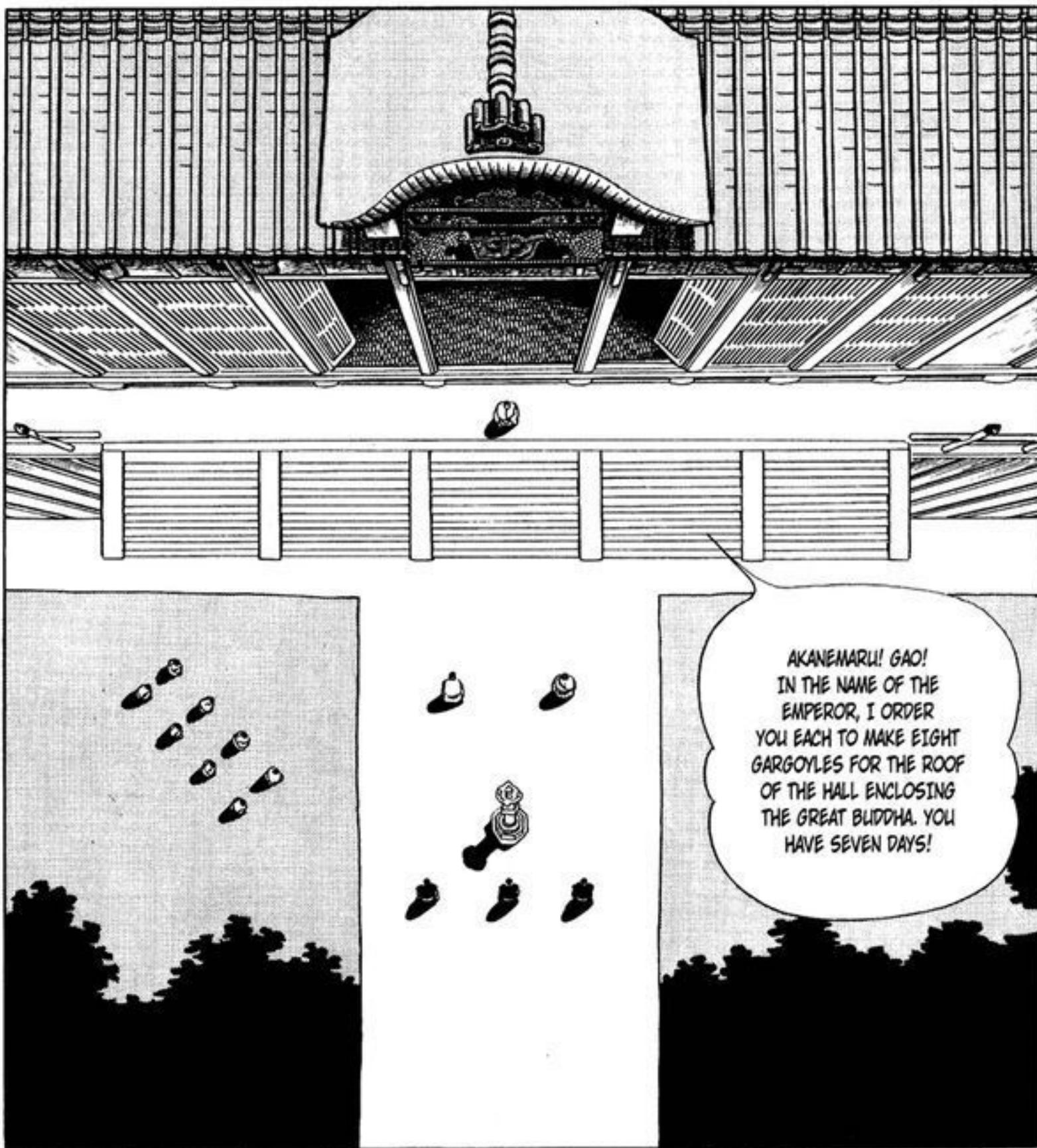


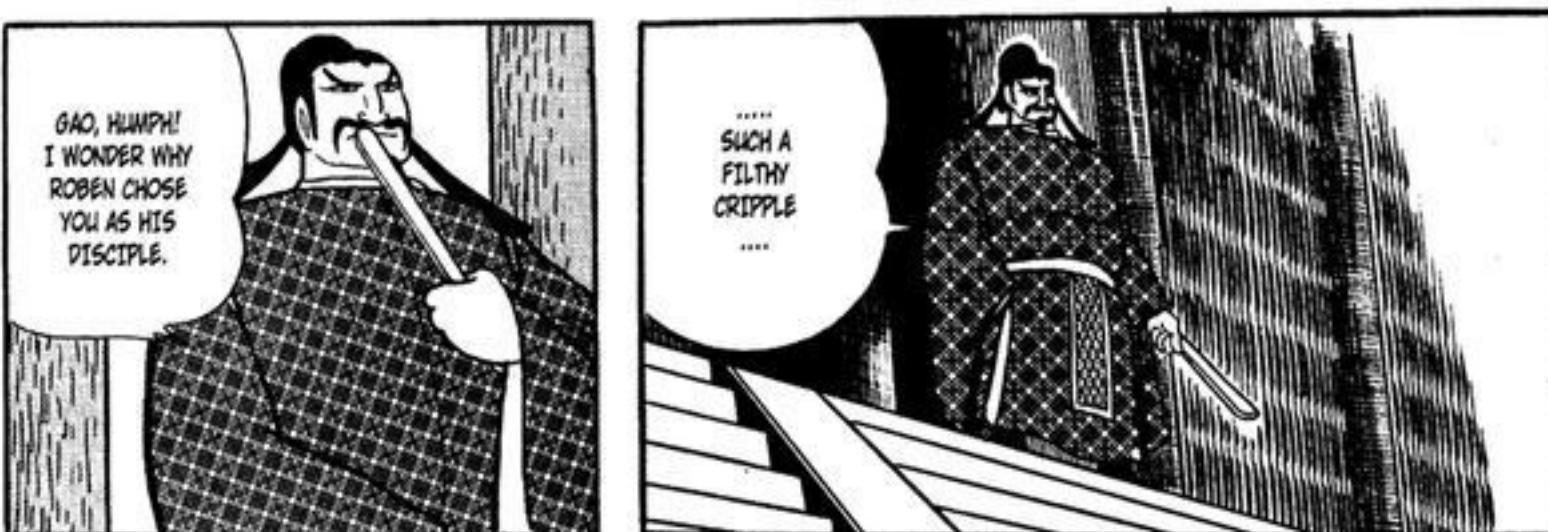
THE CULTURAL PROGRESS OF NARA, THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF JAPAN, WAS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY BUDDHISM. THE EMPEROR, ARISTOCRATS, WEALTHY NOTABLES, AND SCHOLARS.... EVEN THE NATIVE SHINTO PRIESTS... ALL COOPERATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST CULTURE, AN EXAMPLE OF WHICH IS TODAIJI AND ITS GIANT BUDDHA STATUE. BUT IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A MONUMENTAL WORK INVOLVED THE USE OF PEOPLE IN CONDITIONS NEAR SLAVERY AND THAT AT THE TIME THE LAND WAS IN CONSTANT POLITICAL TURMOIL.

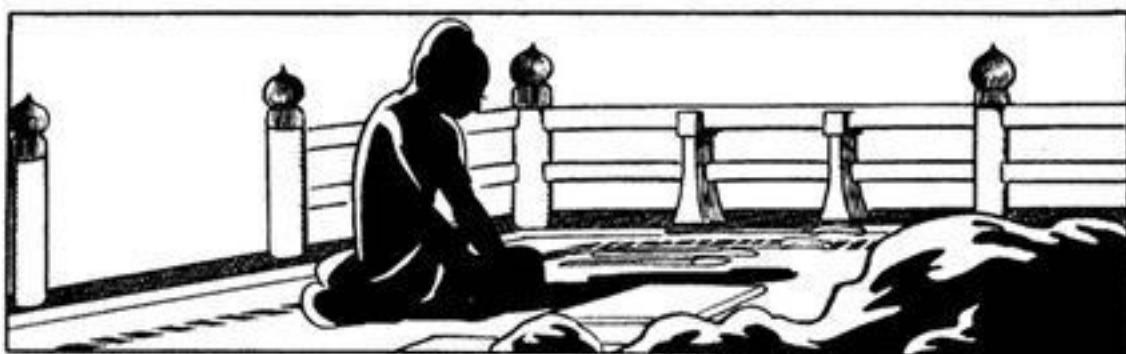
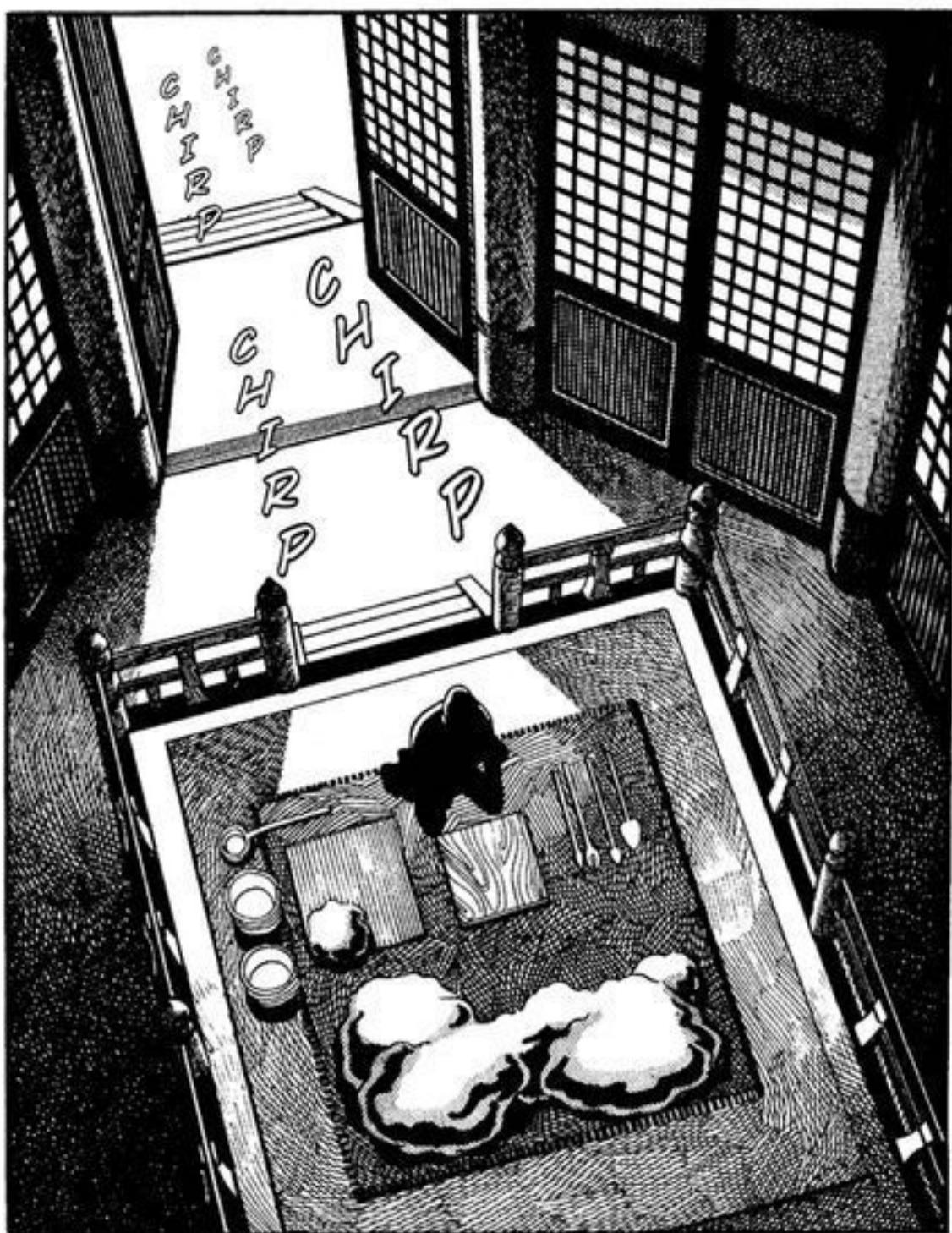


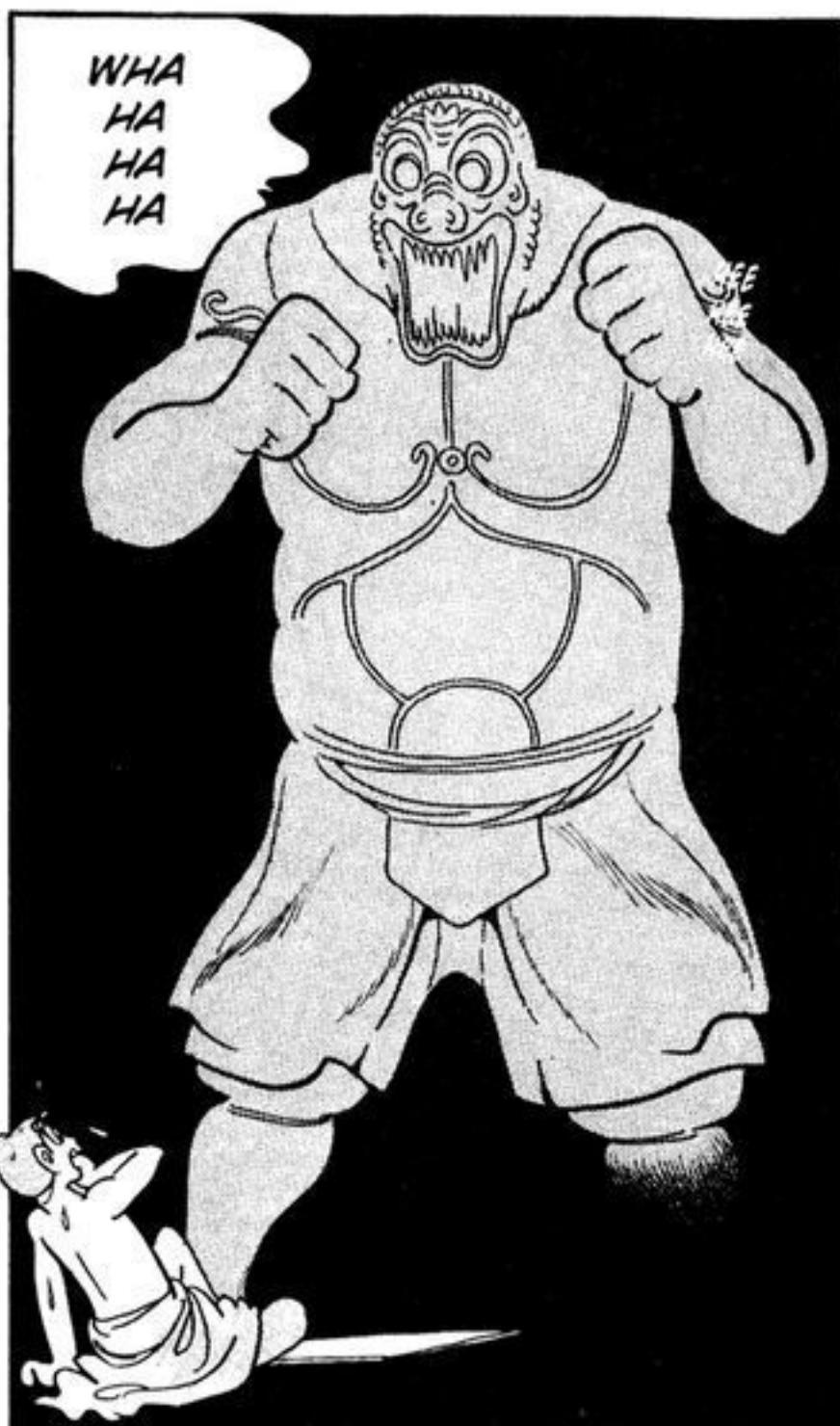
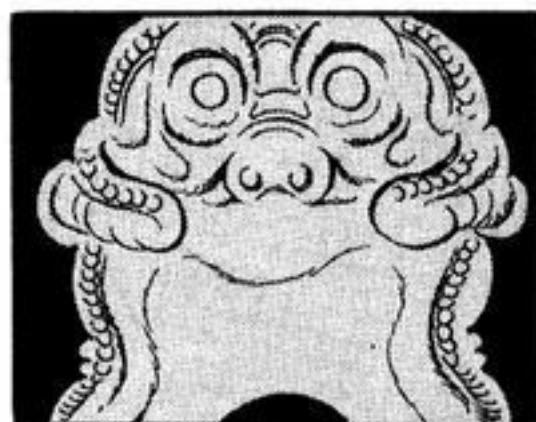






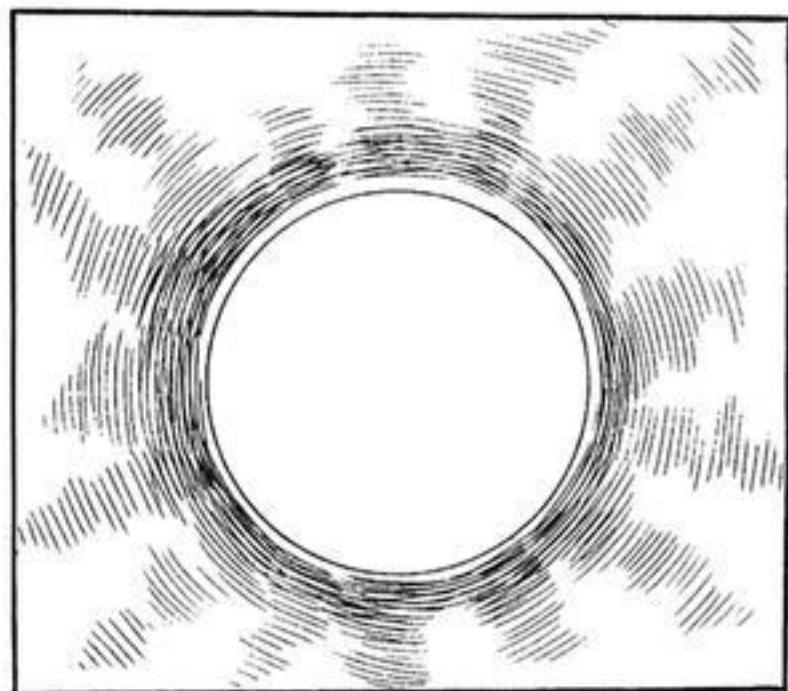
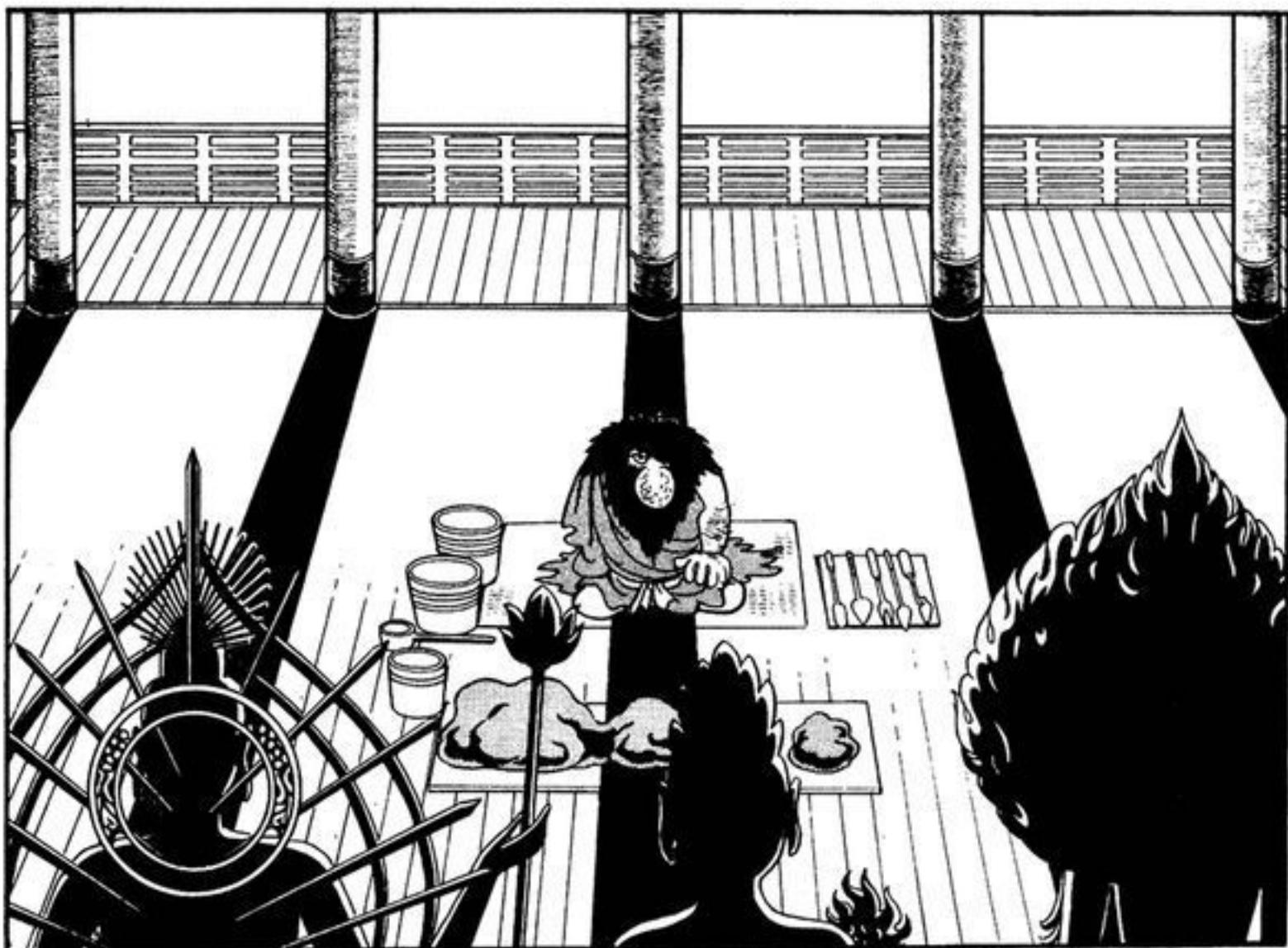


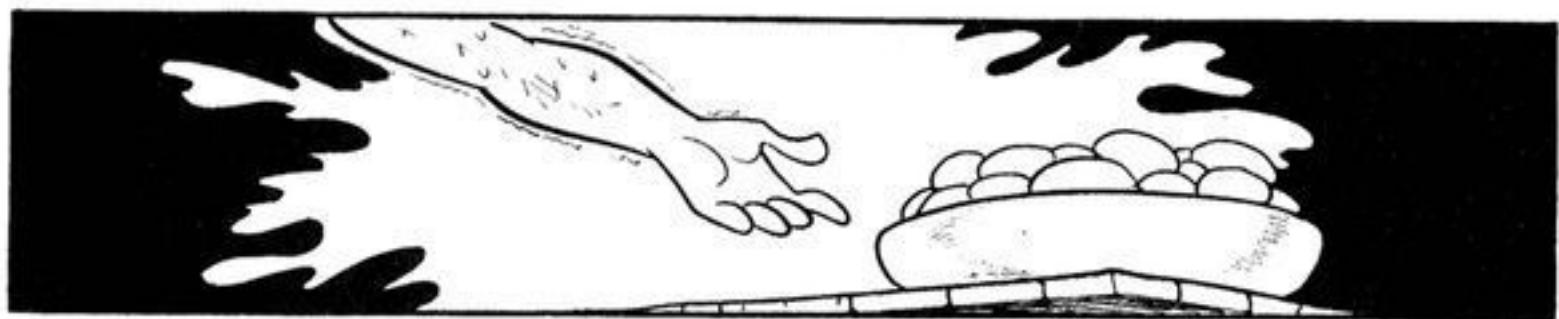


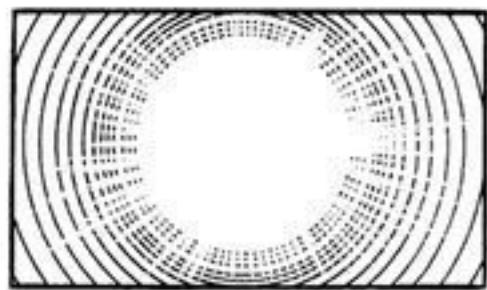


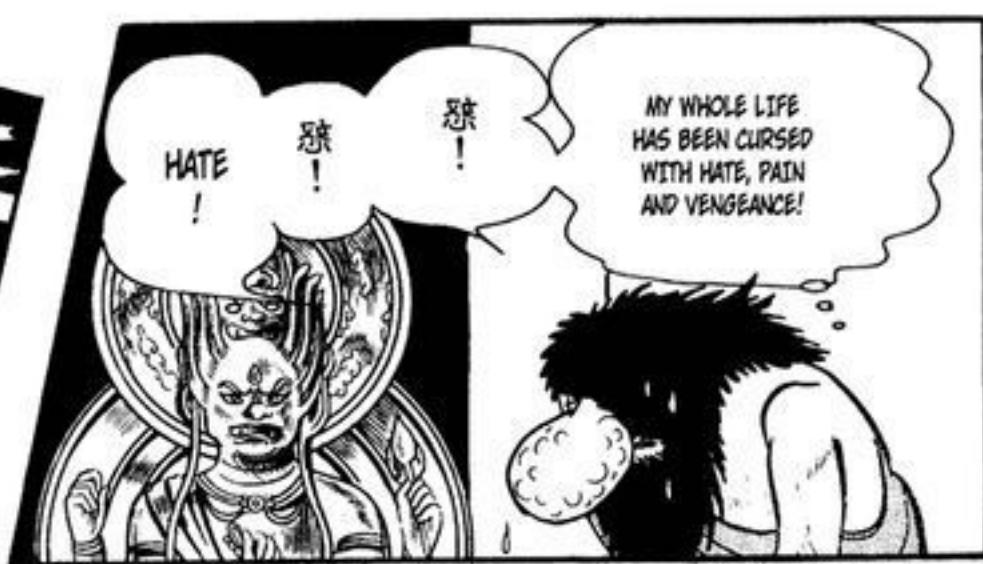
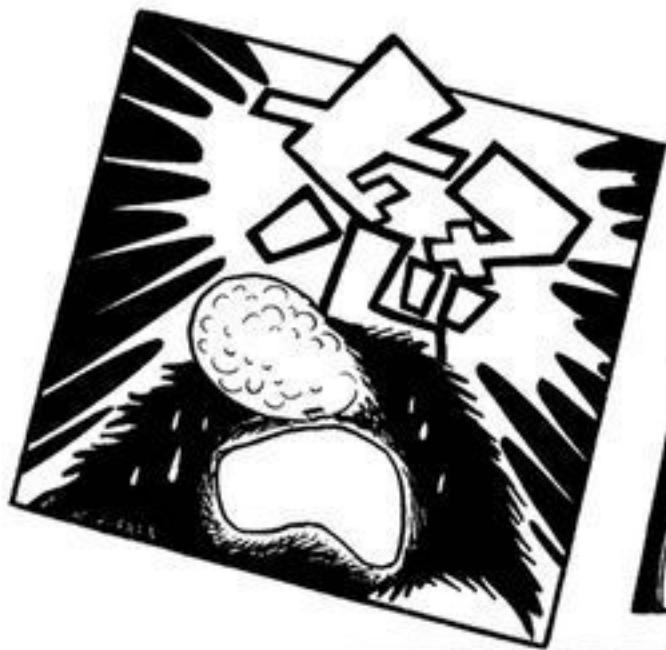














HOW LONG
IS ALL THIS
SUFFERING
AND ANGER
GOING TO
CONTINUE?



ETERNALLY.
AND
YOU,
GAO
ARE TO
BEAR
THAT
BURDEN
FOREVER.

WAIT!
THIS IS A
DIFFERENT
PLACE...
WHERE
AM I
NOW?

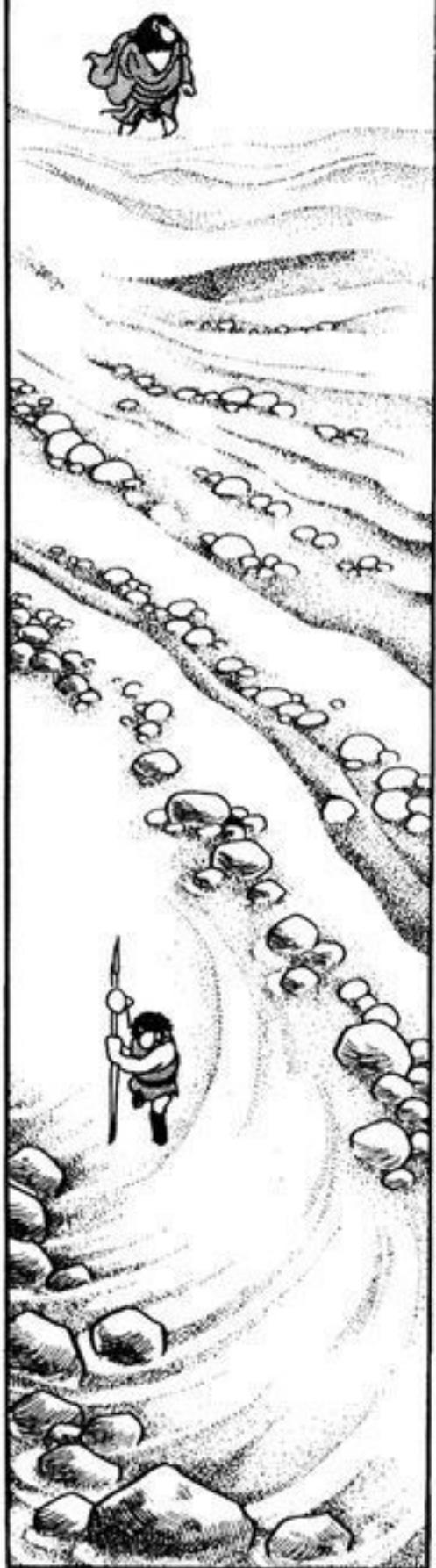
YOU ARE NOW
ON AN ALIEN
PLANET IN A
SOLAR SYSTEM
LIGHT YEARS
FROM EARTH.
THE MAN YOU
SEE WANDERING
IS YOUR
DESCENDANT....
OR RATHER...
HE MIGHT
ACTUALLY
BE YOU.



LOOK UPON
HIM, GAO...
HE IS A
DESCENDANT
OF YOURS
THOUSANDS
OF GENERATIONS
REMOVED CALLED
SARVTA... AND HE
IS DOOMED TO
SUFFER ETERNALLY
ON A DISTANT
PLANET.

THIS...
THIS IS
INCREIBLE
...

...CAN THAT
REALLY BE MY
DESCENDANT?



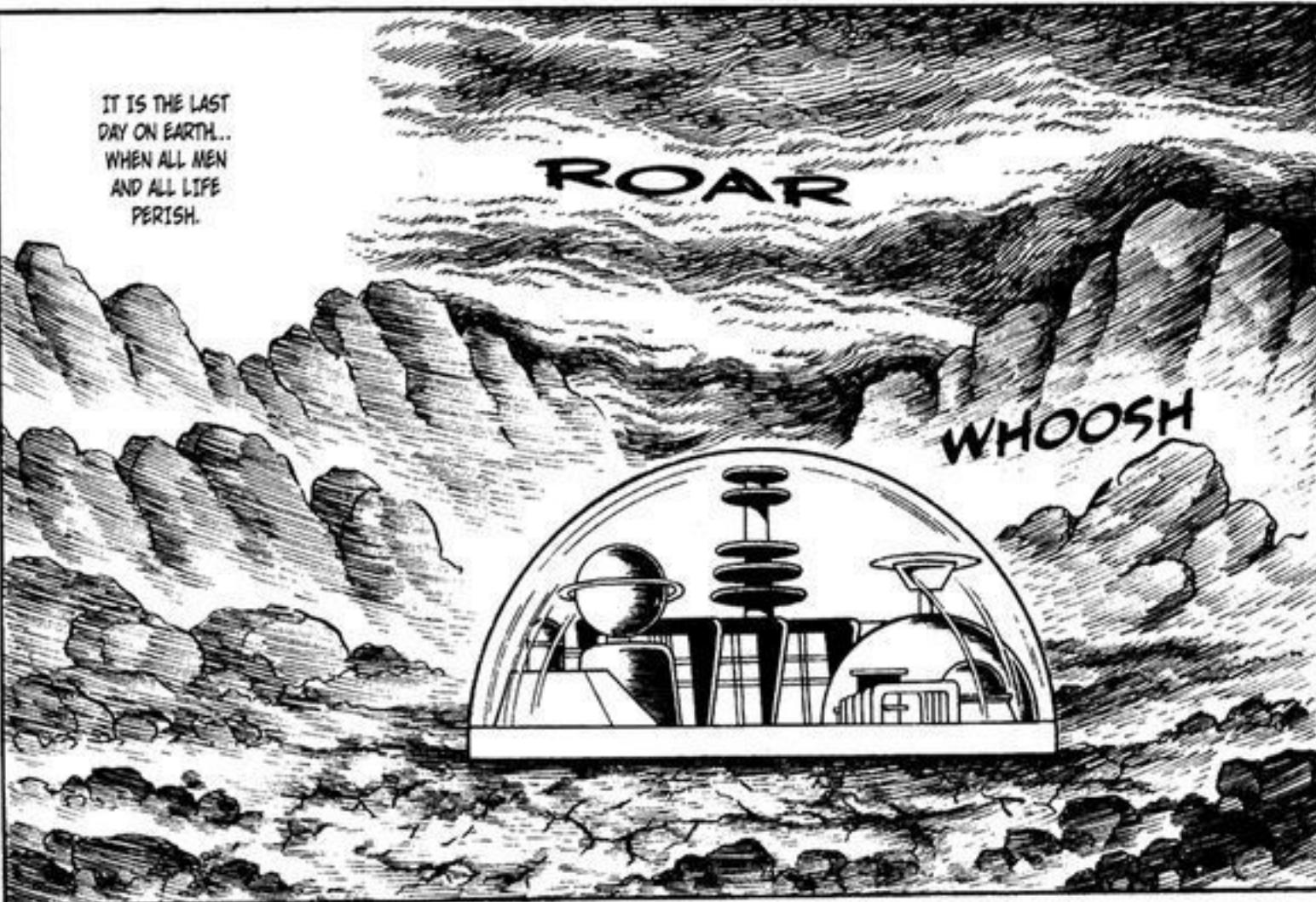
LET ME NOW
SHOW YOU A
DESCENDANT
CURSED WITH
EVEN WORSE
SUFFERING,
GAO.



IT IS THE LAST
DAY ON EARTH..
WHEN ALL MEN
AND ALL LIFE
PERISH.

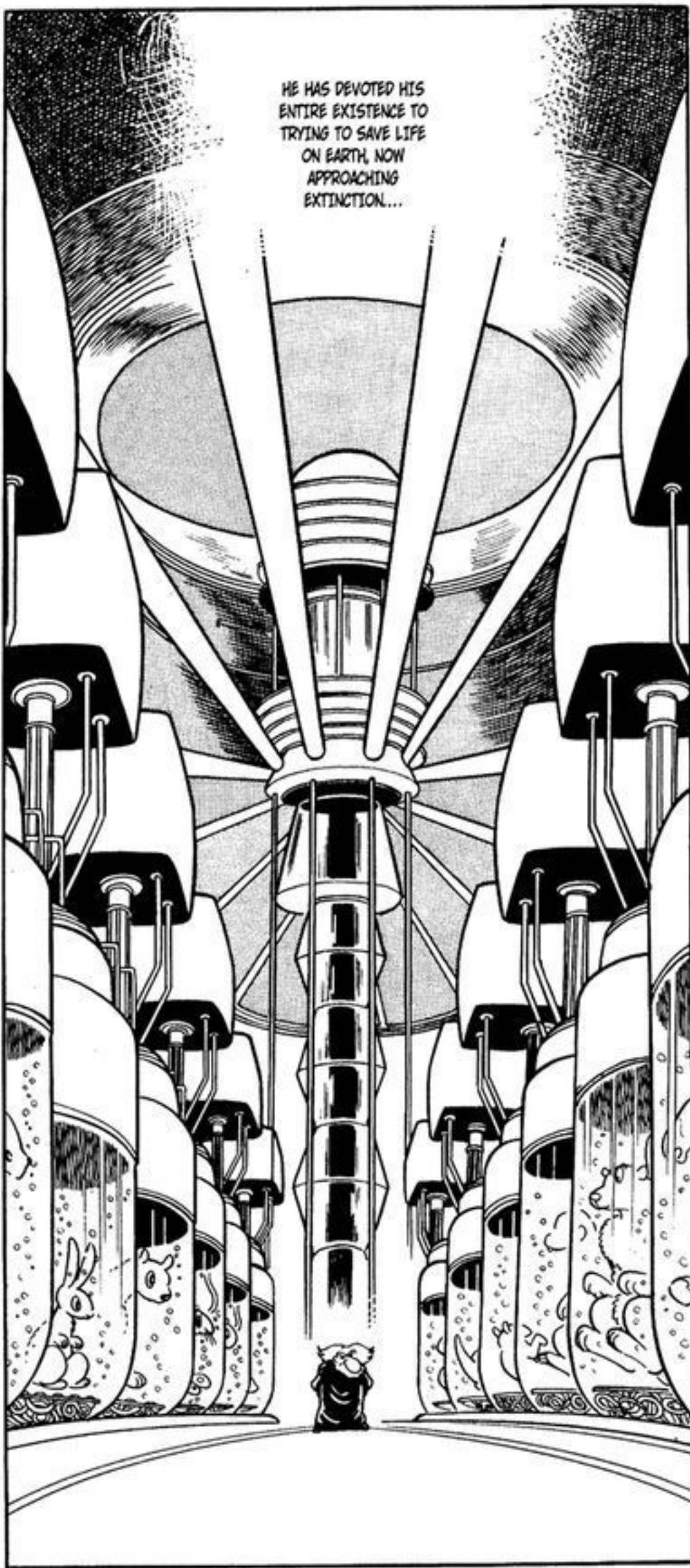
ROAR

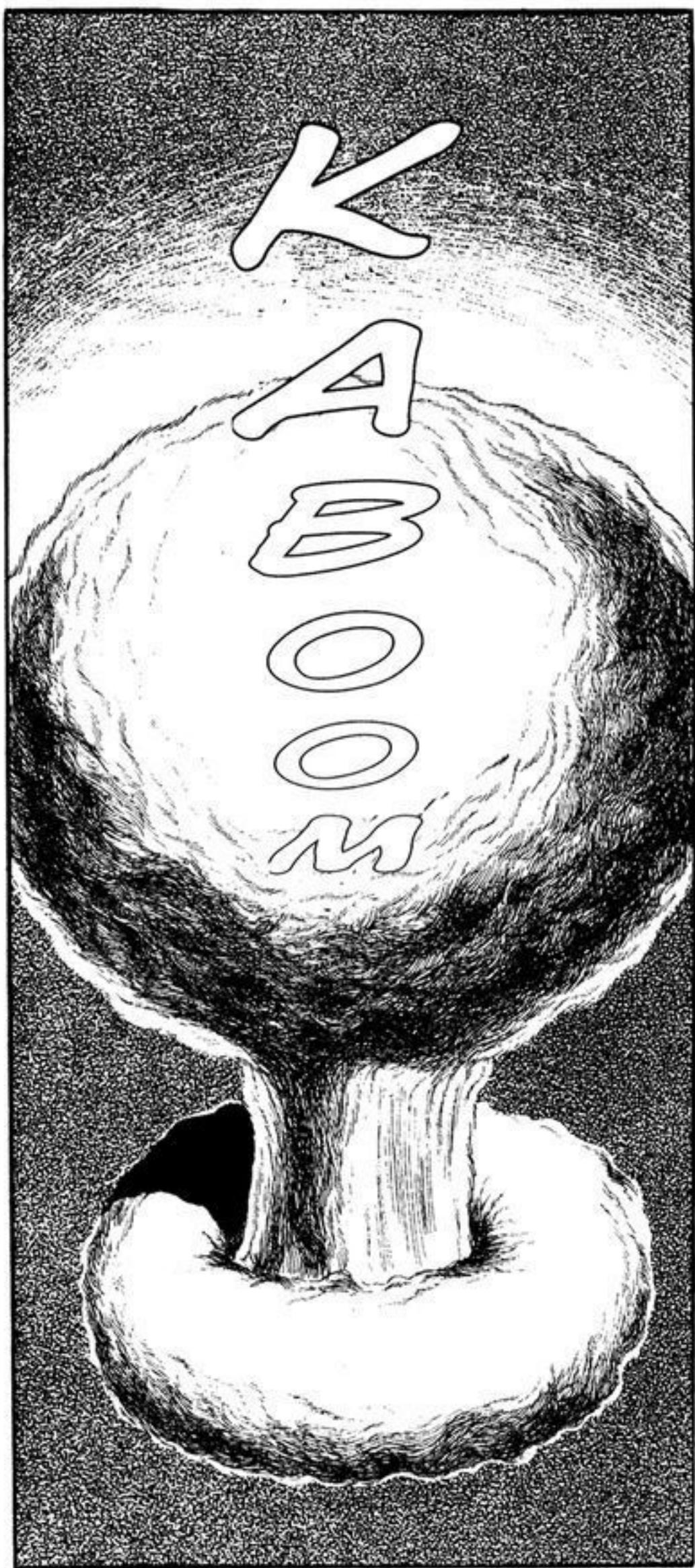
WHOOSH



....BUT FOR
ONE MAN IT IS
UNBEARABLE
FOR A SPECIAL
REASON...
BEHOLD!

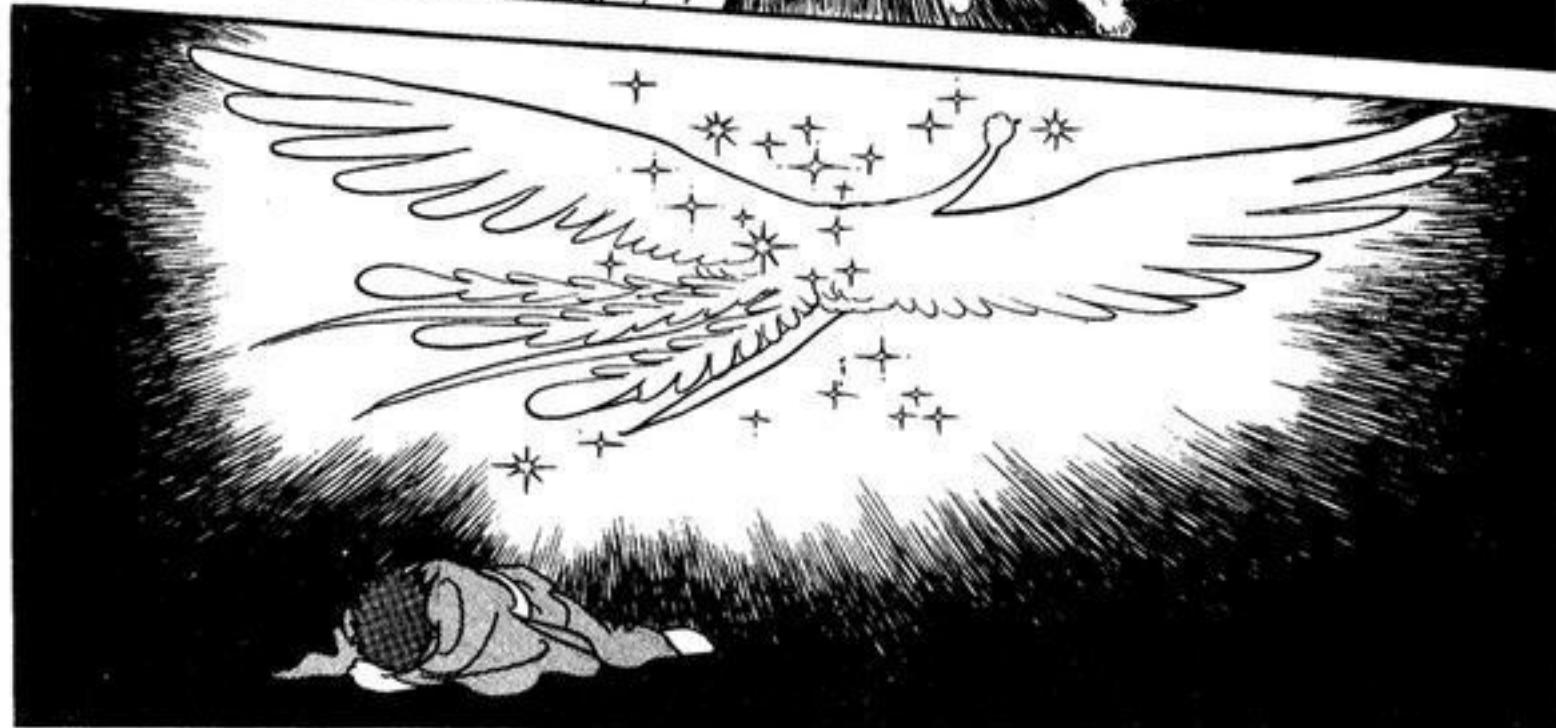


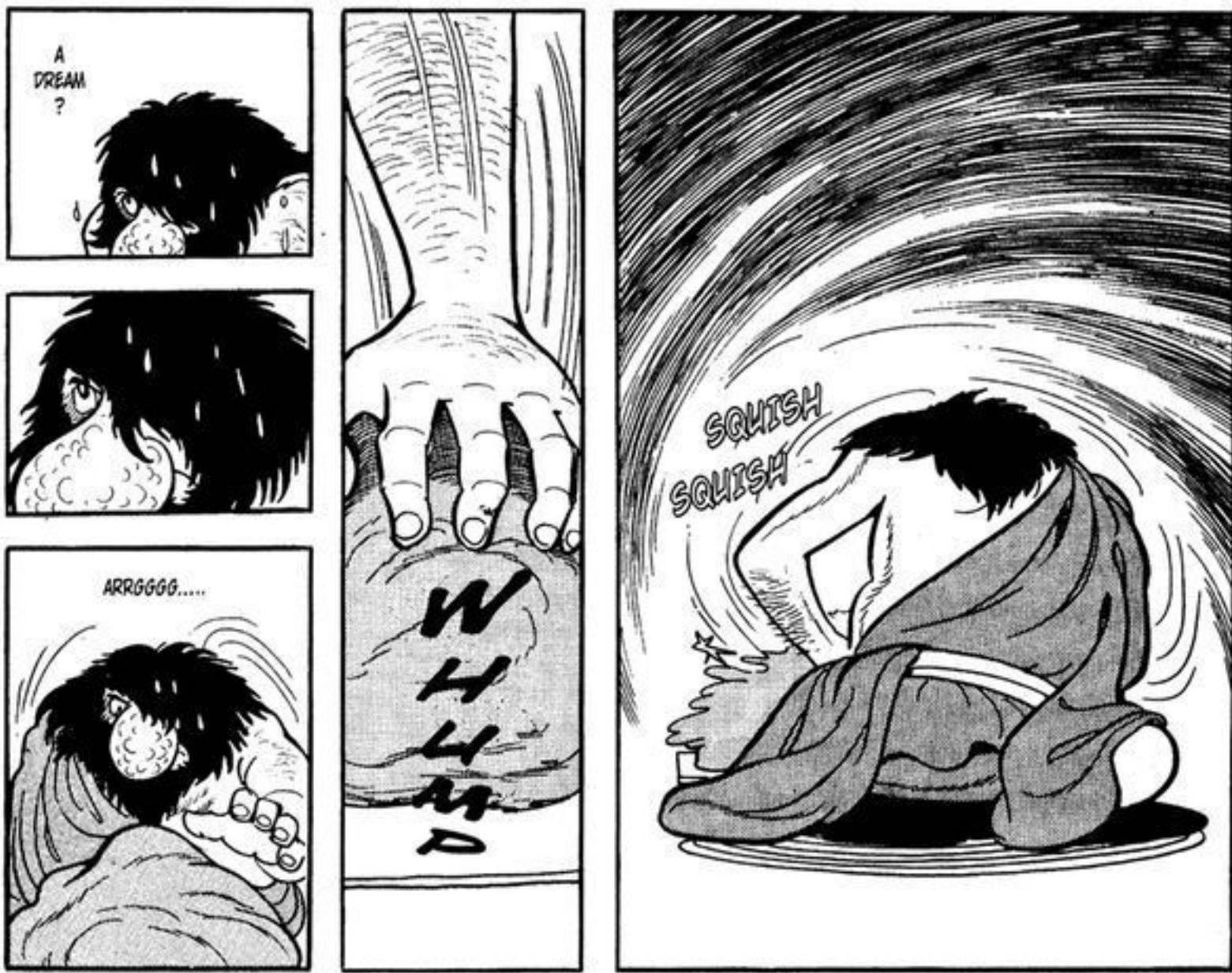
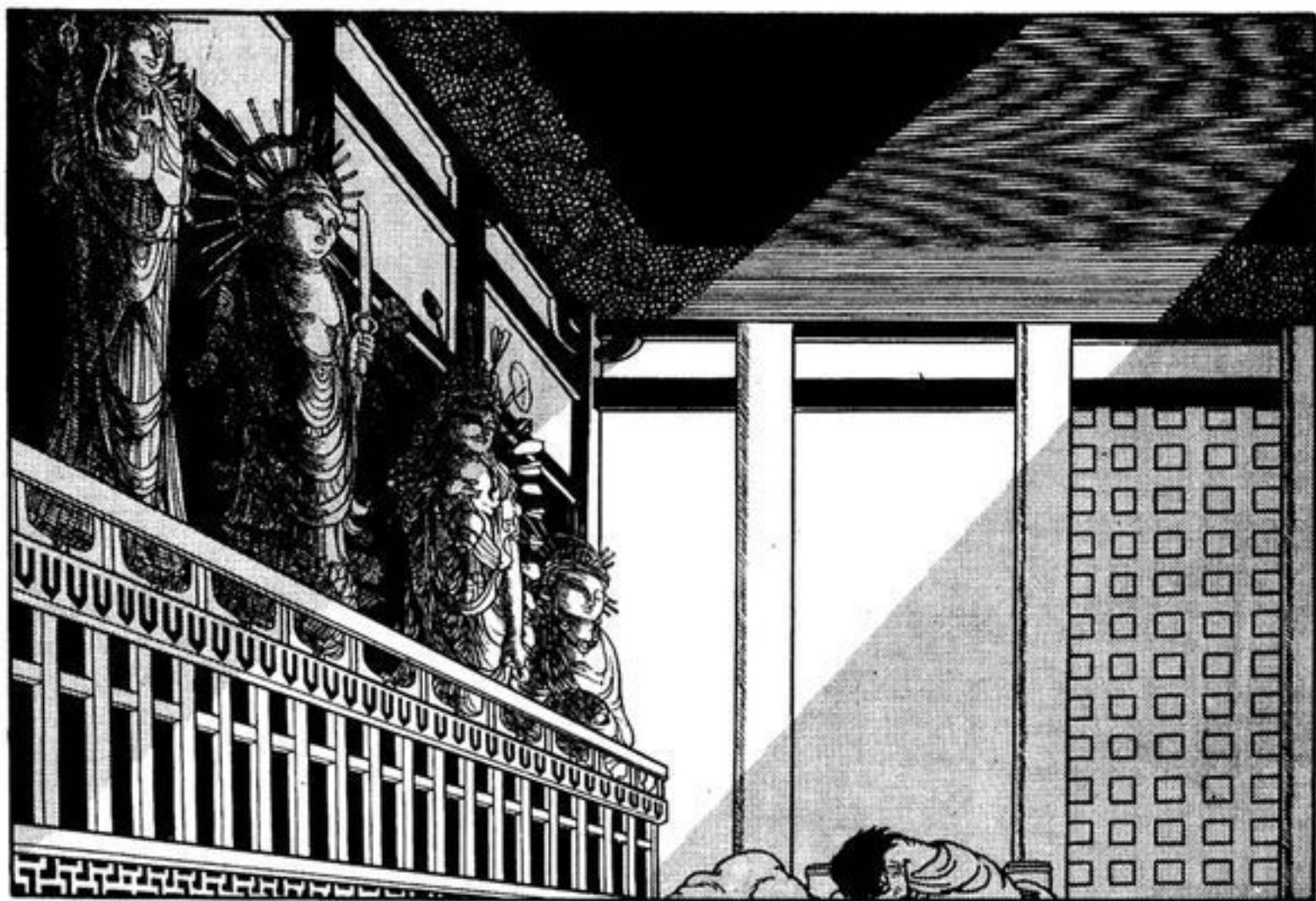




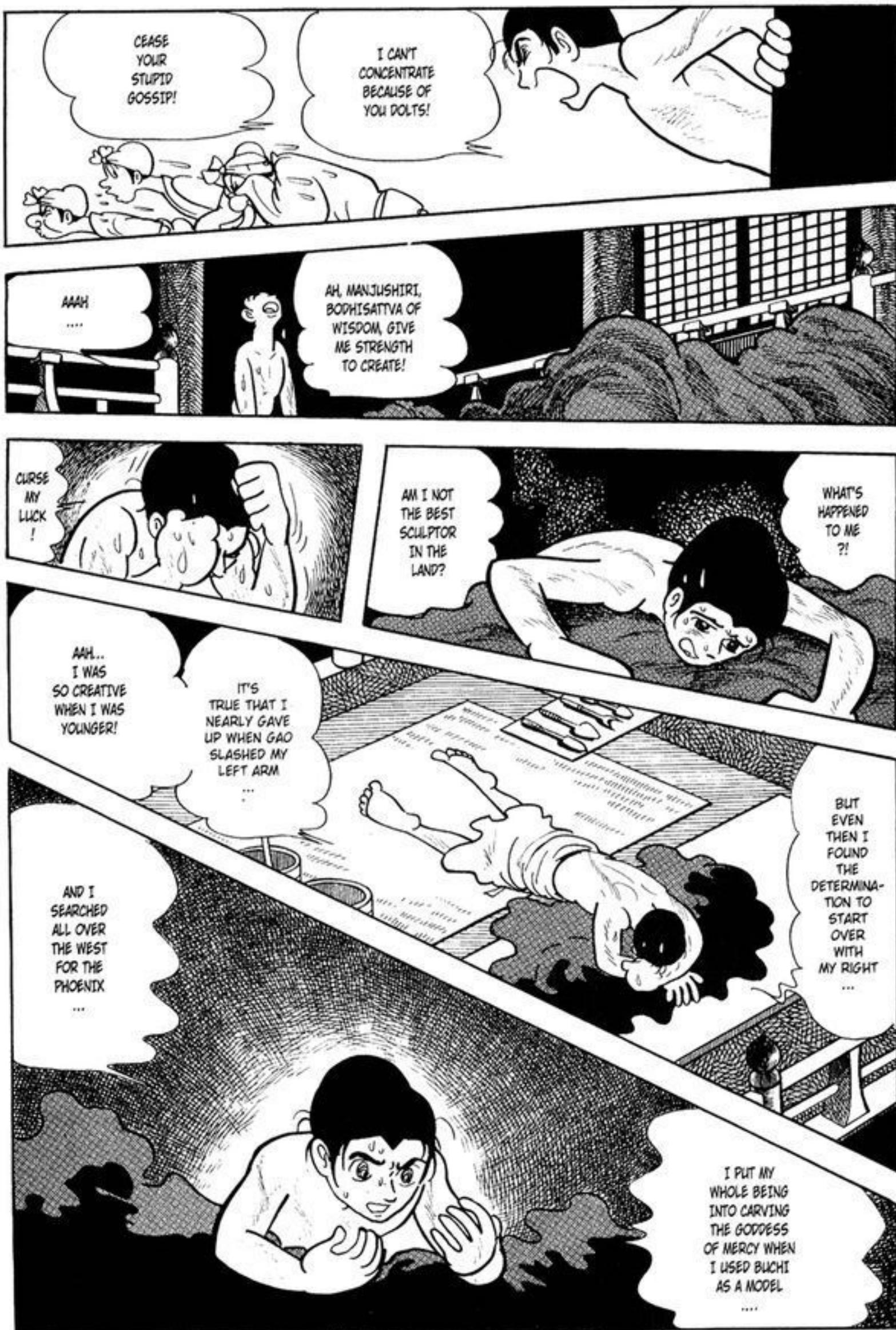
USE YOUR
ANGER AND
SUFFERING GAO!
LET THEM GIVE
YOU STRENGTH
TO CREATE!

WHY...
WHAT
ARE YOU
ANYWAY
?









THEN MY
WORK
WAS MY
WHOLE
LIFE.

WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO
ME NOW THAT
I'VE REACHED
THE PINNACLE
OF FAME AS A
CRAFTSMAN?

WHY
CAN
I NO
LONGER
CREATE?!

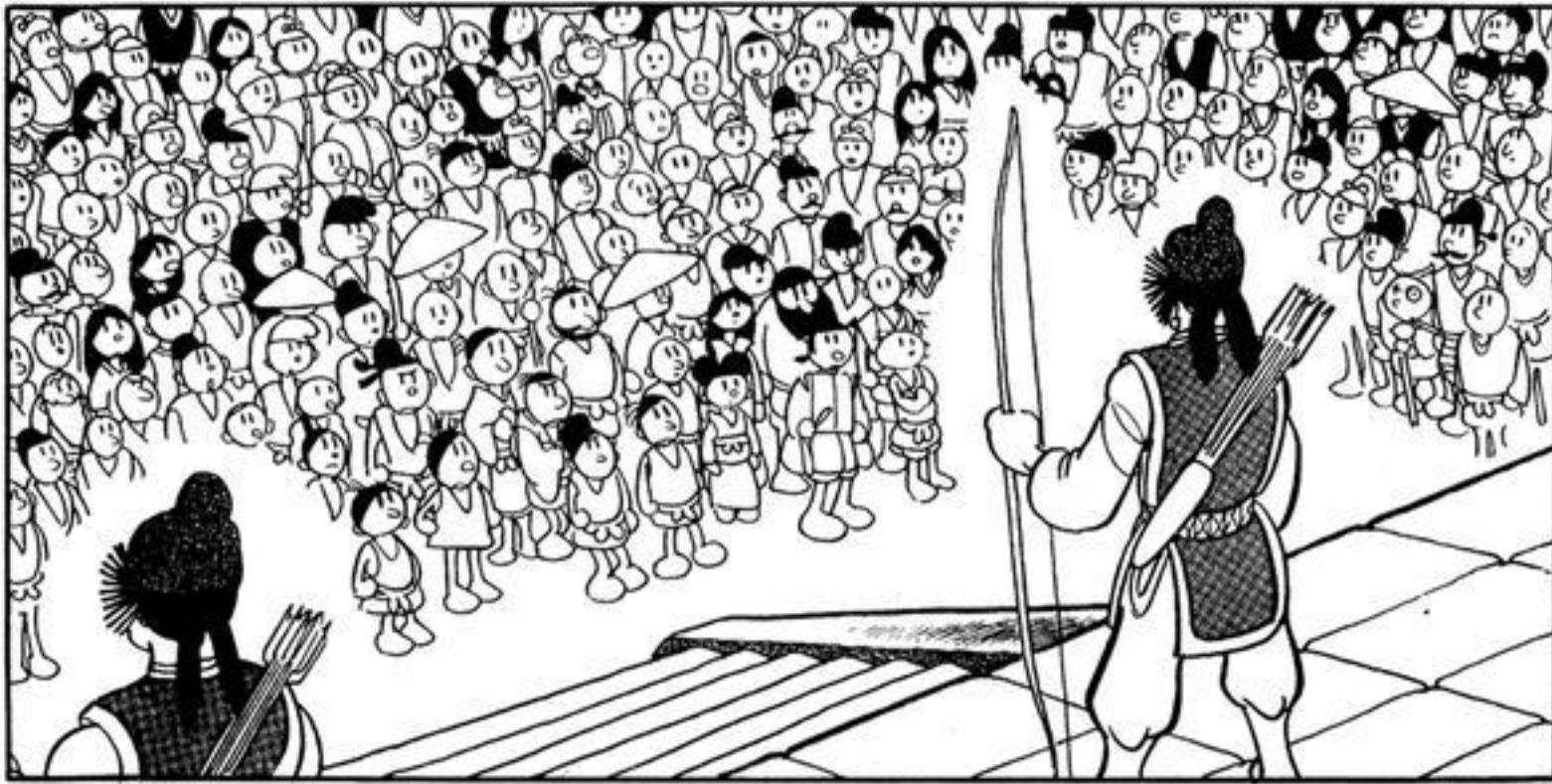
AAH...
BODHISATTVAS
....
ALL POWERFUL
BUDDHAS...
I BEG YOU...

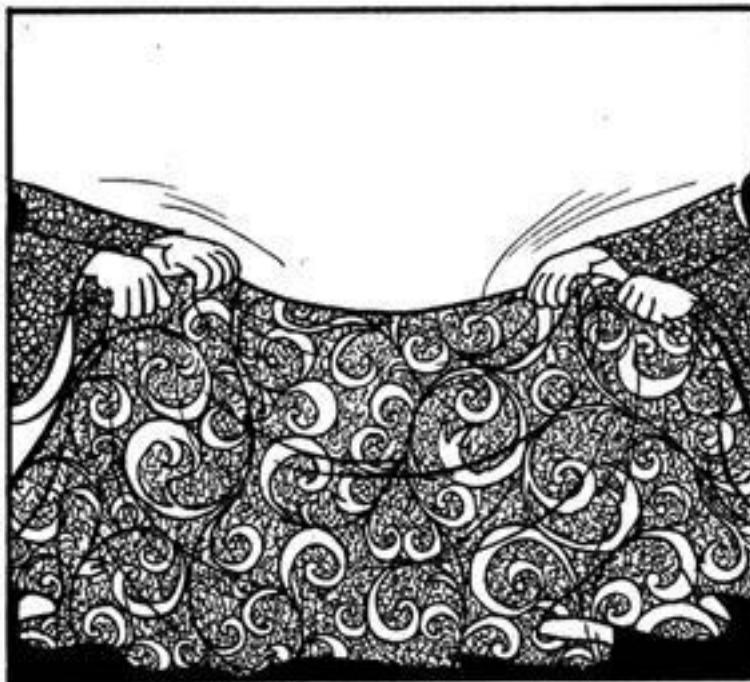
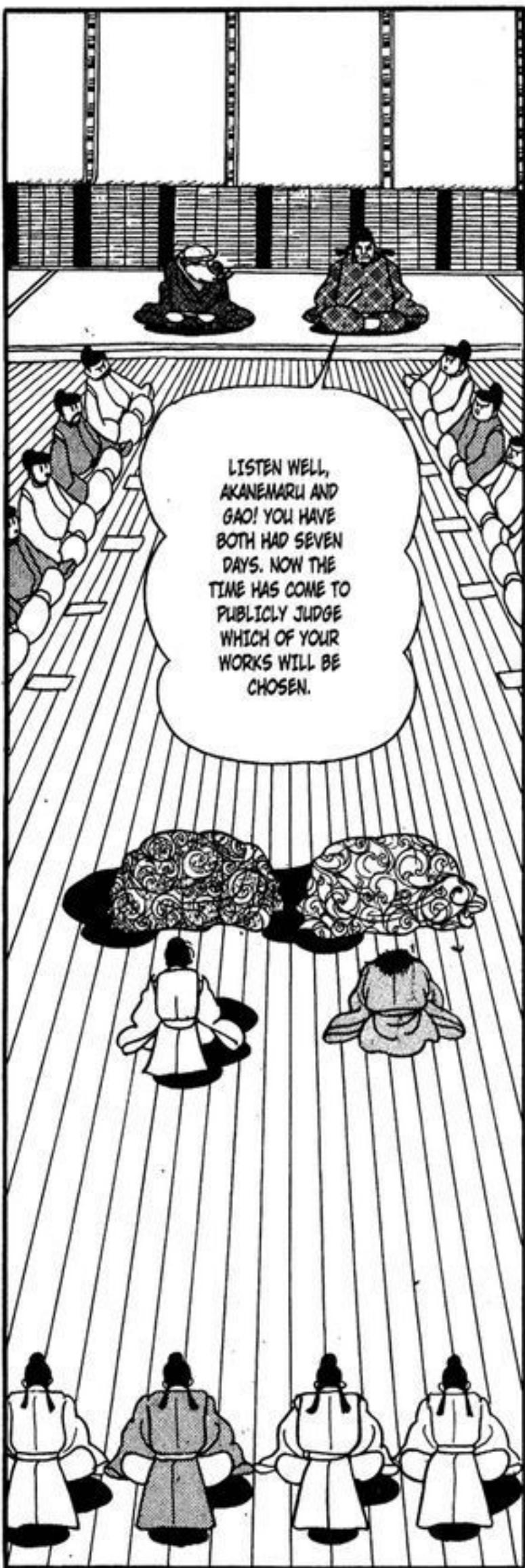
SHOW ME
...
YOUR
WRETCHED
SERVANT,
WHAT TO DO
...

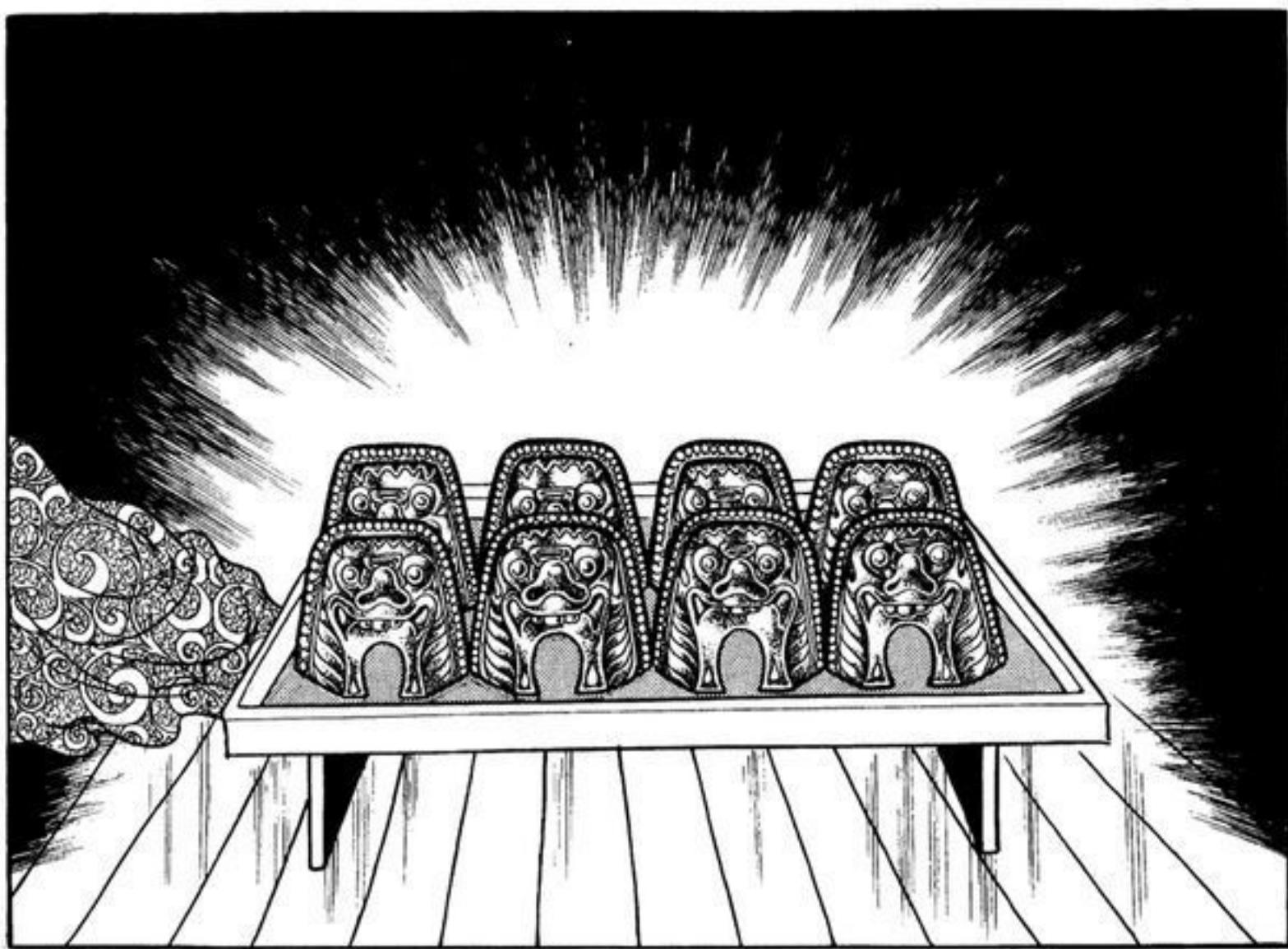
WHY AM
I MAKING
THESE
GARGOYLES
?

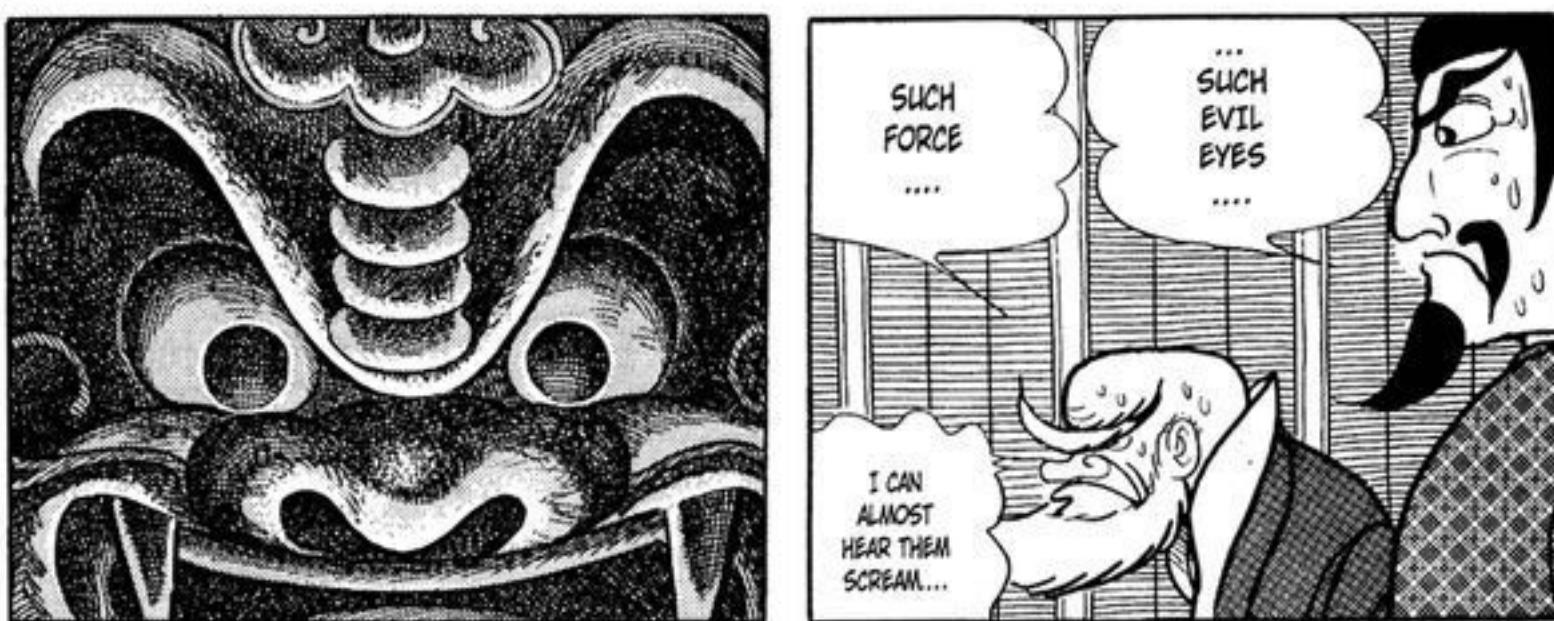
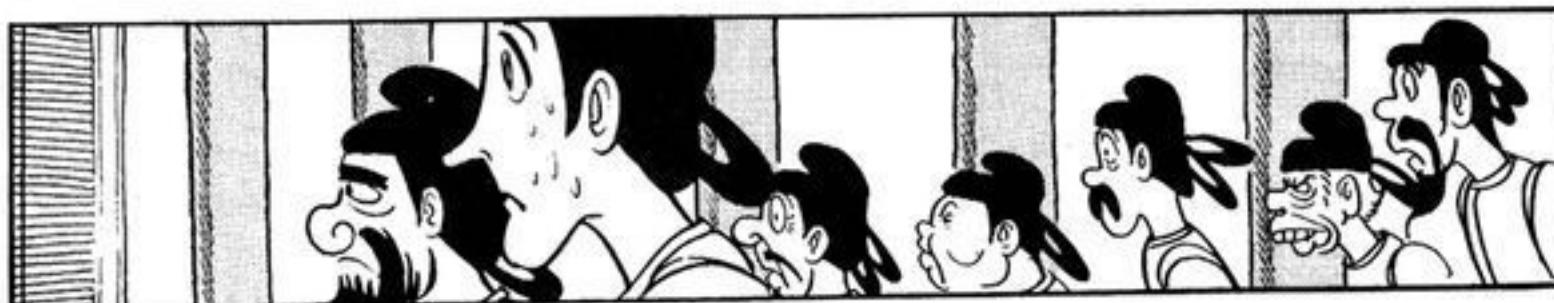
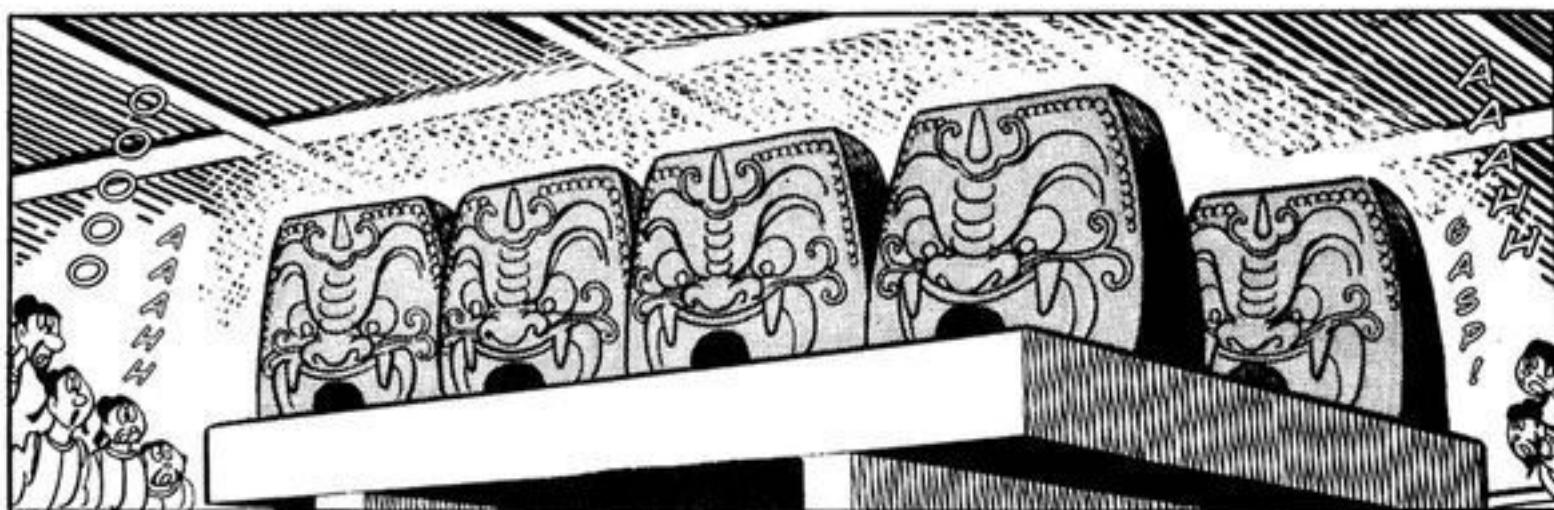
IS IT
JUST FOR
FAME AND
POWER
?

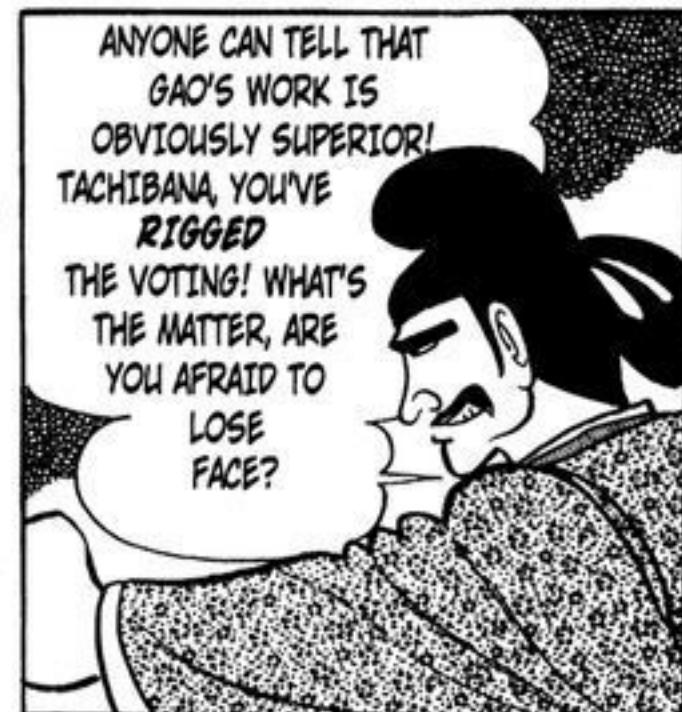
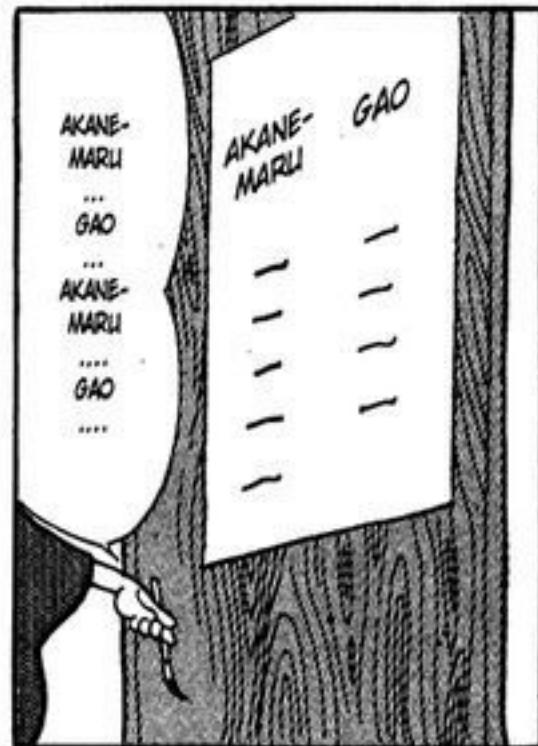
IF IT IS....
DAMN ME
TO
PERDITION..
I BEG YOU..



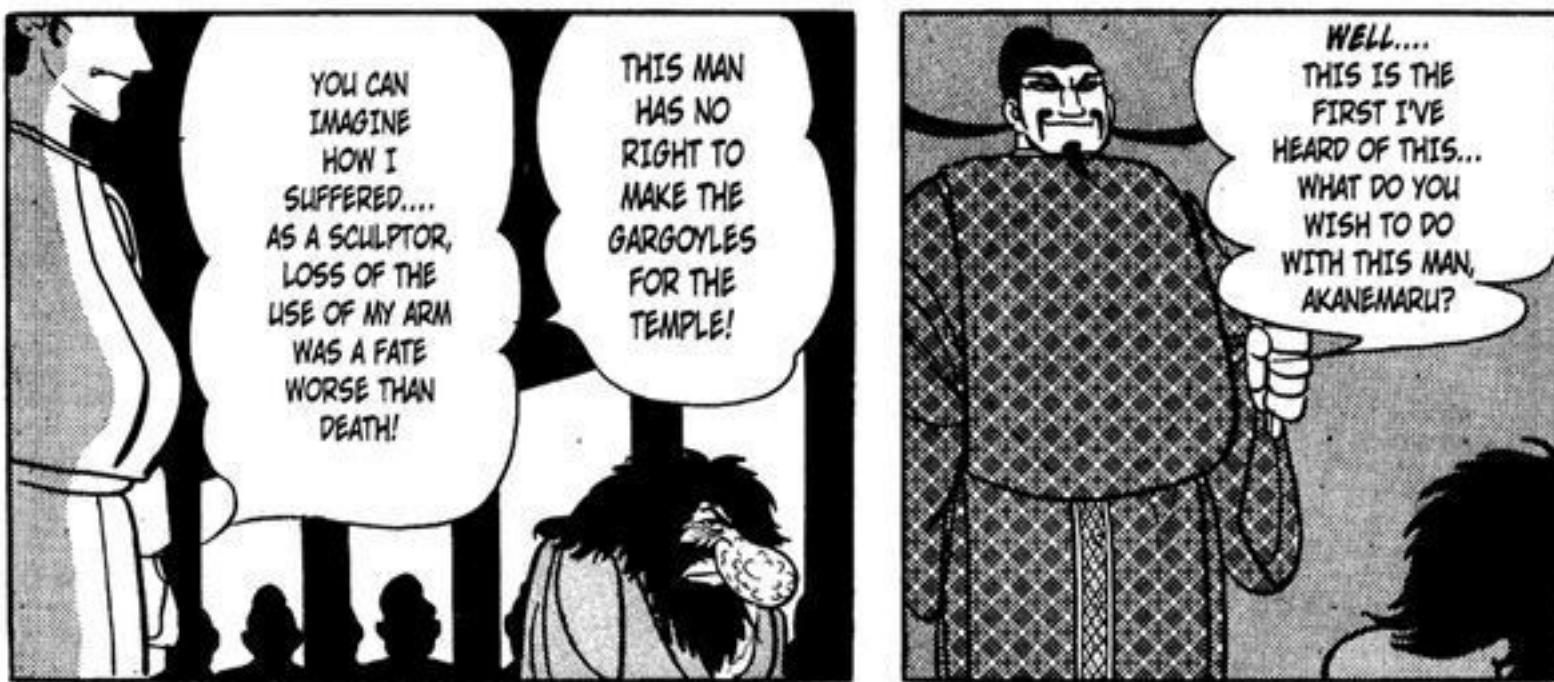




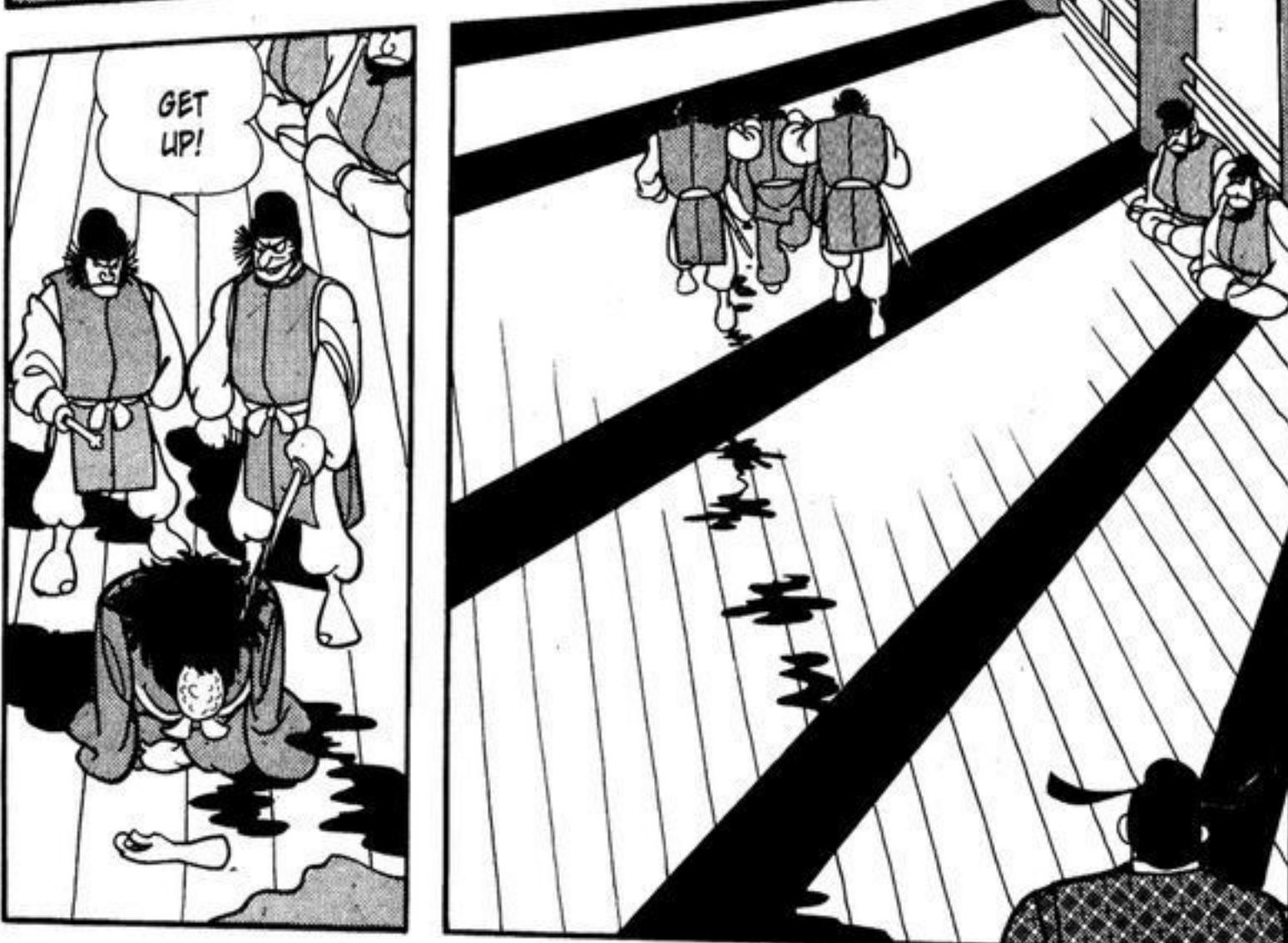
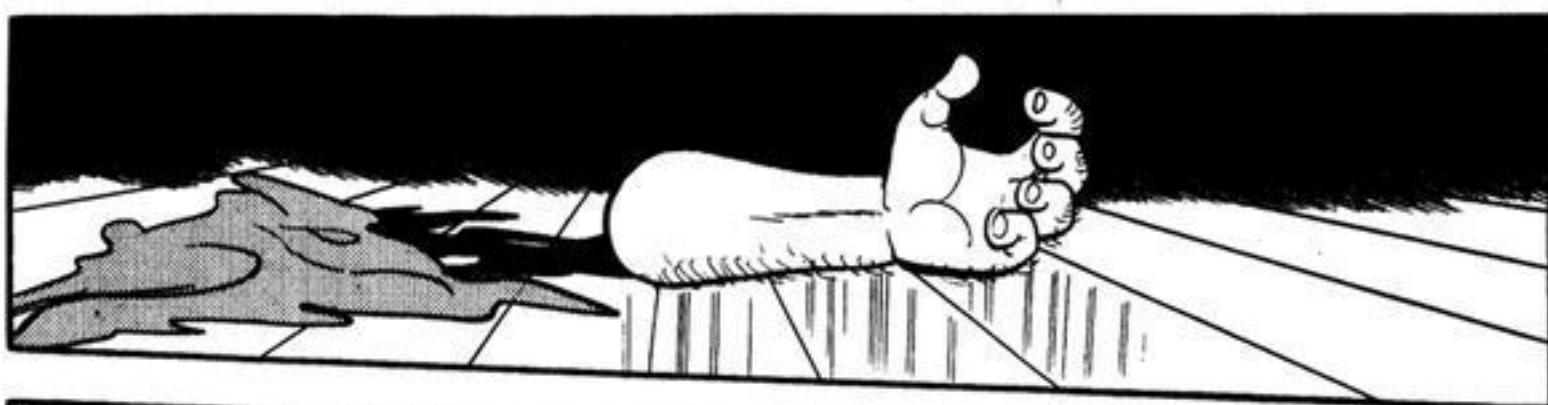


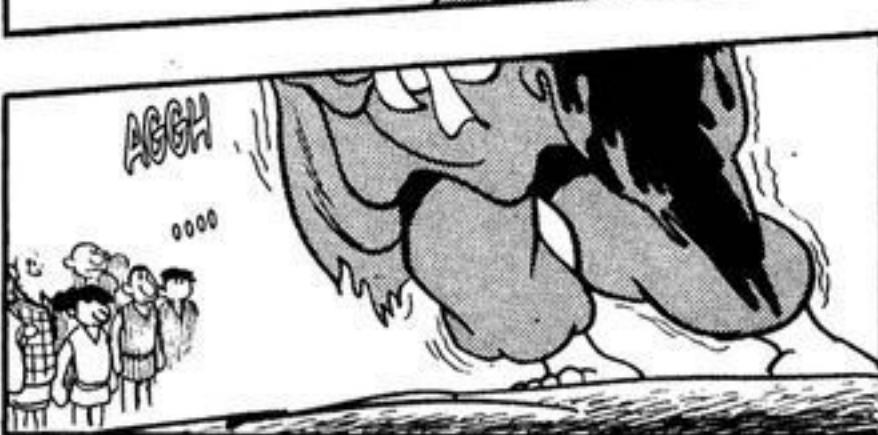










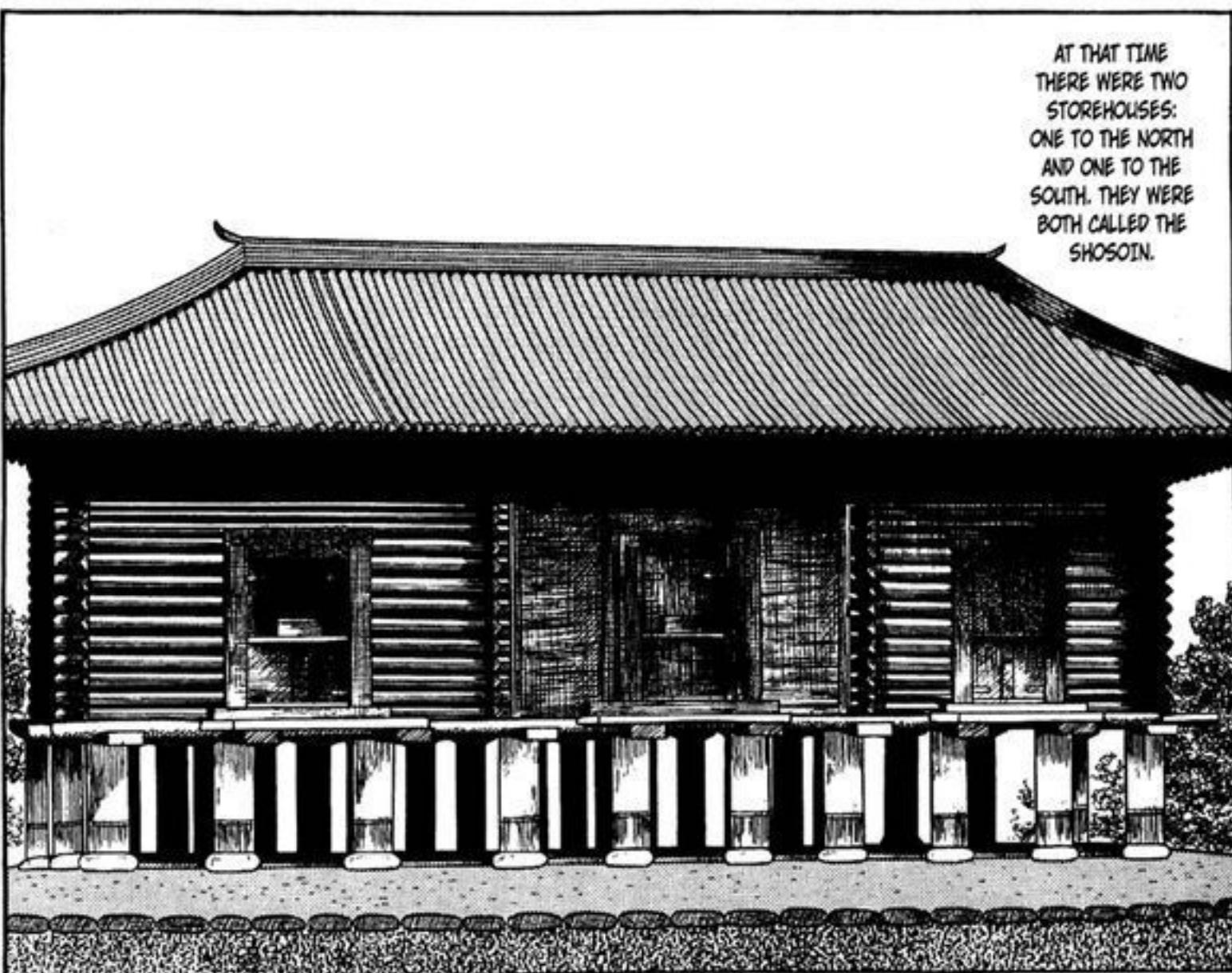
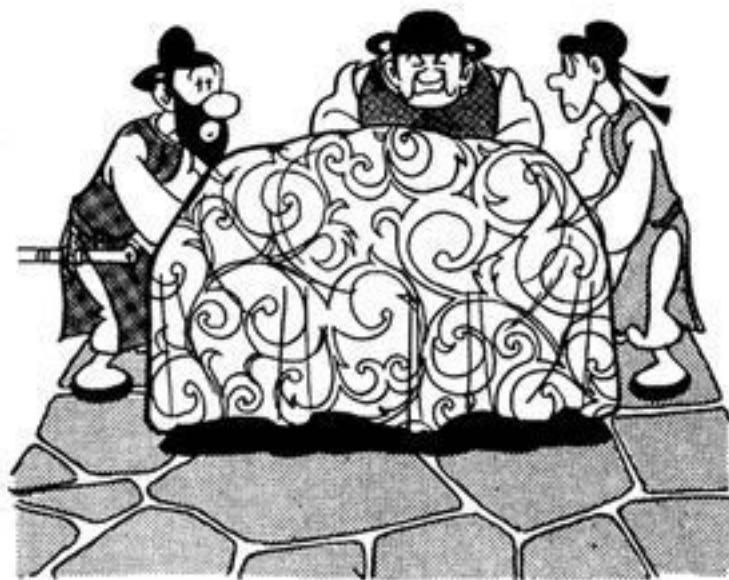






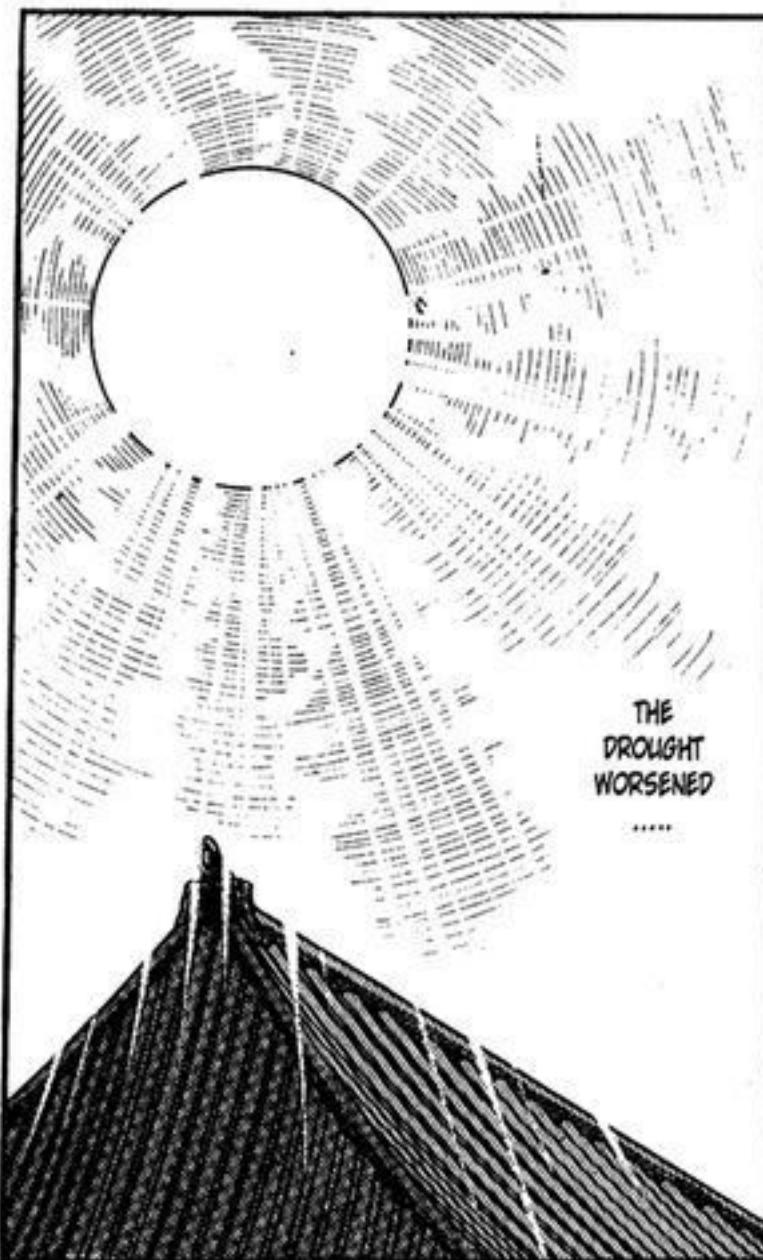
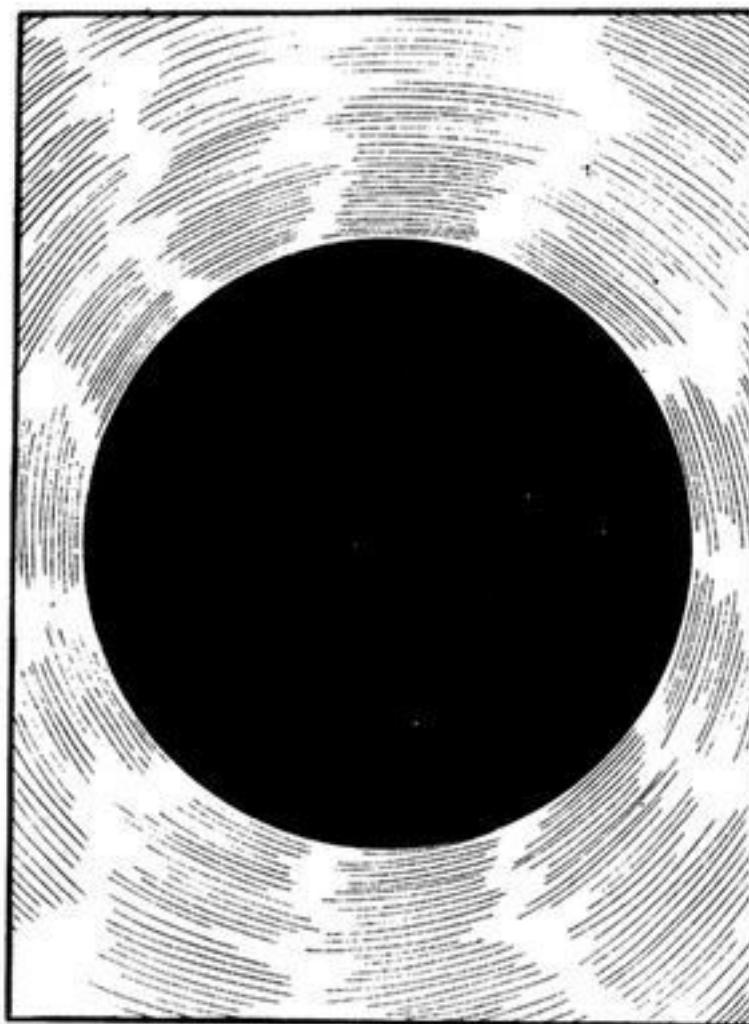
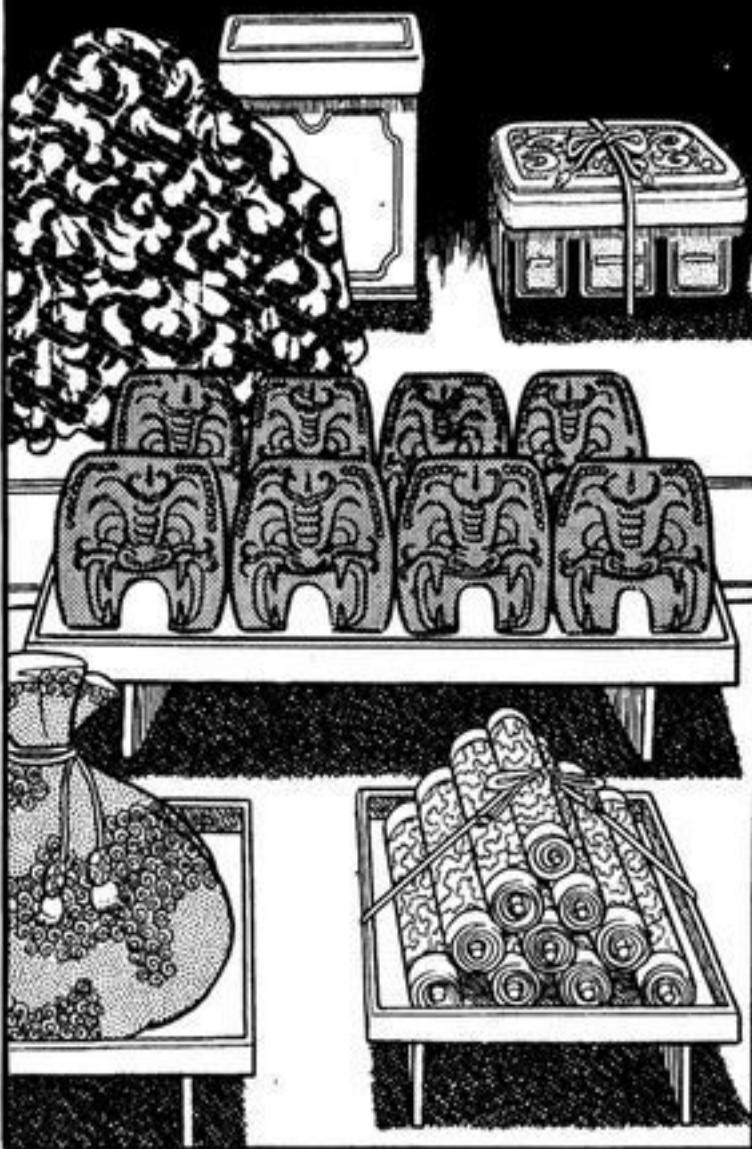
AKANEMARU'S GARGOYLES
WERE IMMEDIATELY PLACED
ON THE FOUR CORNERS OF
THE PAVILION OF THE GREAT
BUDDHA. THEY BLENDED
HARMONIOUSLY WITH ITS
BEAUTY, BUT THEY PASSED
ALMOST UNNOTICED,
DWARFED BY THE
BUILDING'S ENORMITY.

ON THE OTHER
HAND, GAO'S
GARGOYLES
WERE PLACED
ALONG WITH
OTHER GIFTS
IN A STORE-
HOUSE NORTH
OF THE
PAVILIONS.

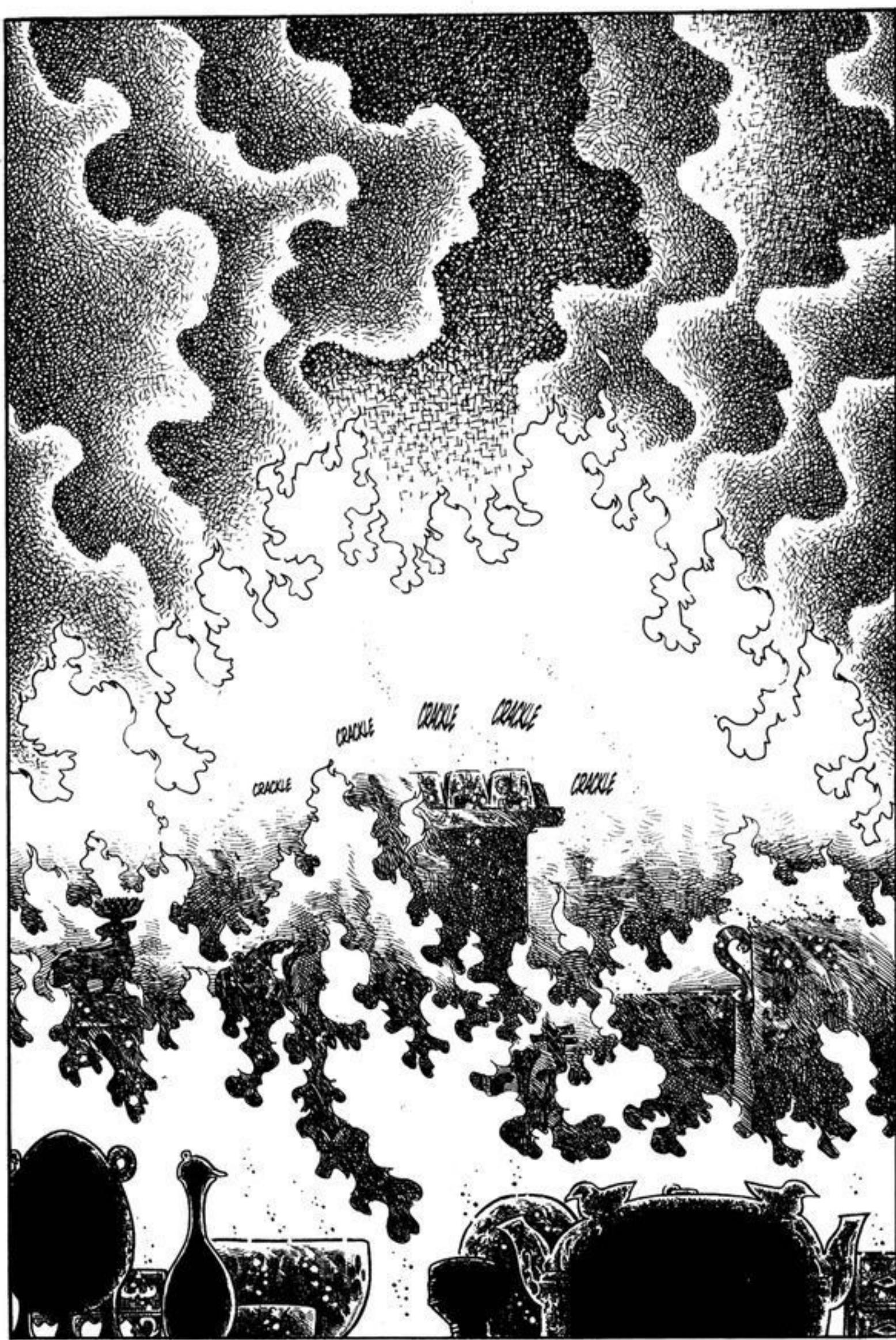


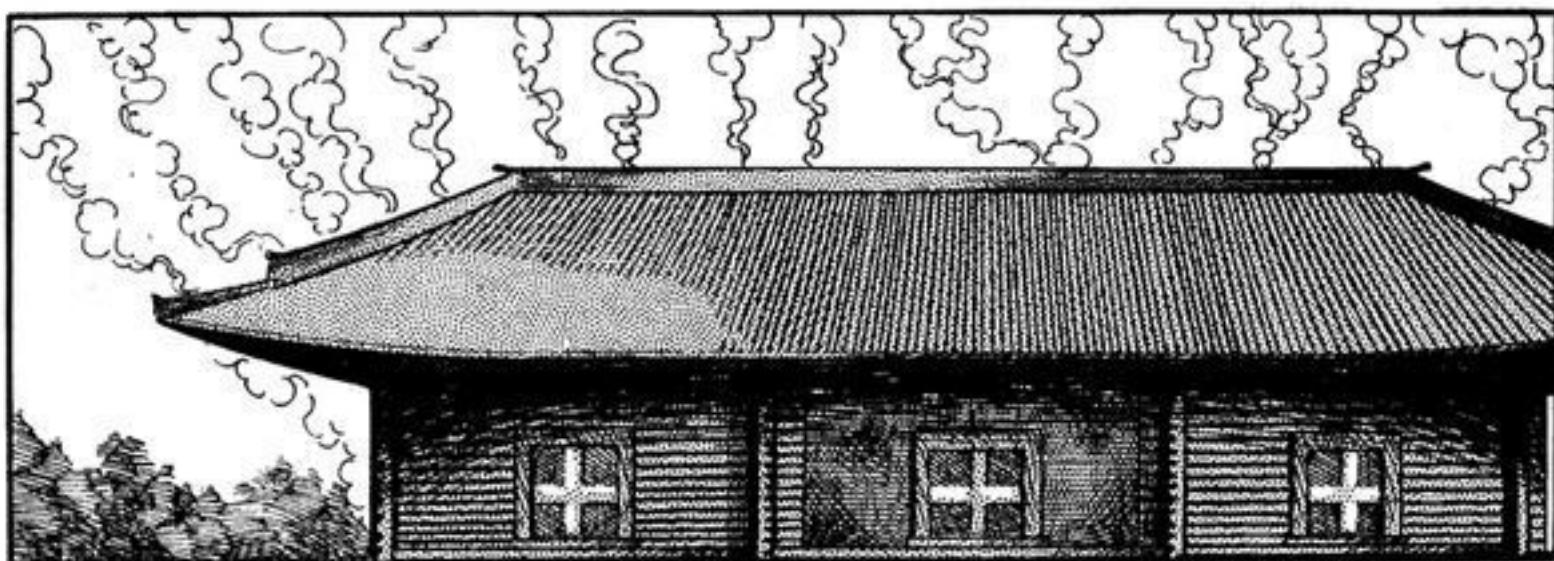
AT THAT TIME
THERE WERE TWO
STOREHOUSES:
ONE TO THE NORTH
AND ONE TO THE
SOUTH. THEY WERE
BOTH CALLED THE
SHOSOIN.

"SHOSOIN" REFERRED TO ANY STOREROOM OF IMPORTANT TREASURES AND GIFTS. THE SHOSOIN WHICH REMAINS TODAY BECAME FAMOUS WHEN EMPRESS SEIME MADE THE BUILDING THE OFFICIAL STOREROOM OF EMPEROR SHOMU'S BELONGINGS ON THE 49TH DAY AFTER HIS DEATH IN 756 A.D. THUS THE TILES OF GAO, PLUS ALL OF THE ARTICLES PREVIOUSLY PLACED IN THE NORTHERN STOREROOM, BECAME CAREFULLY PROTECTED TREASURES.





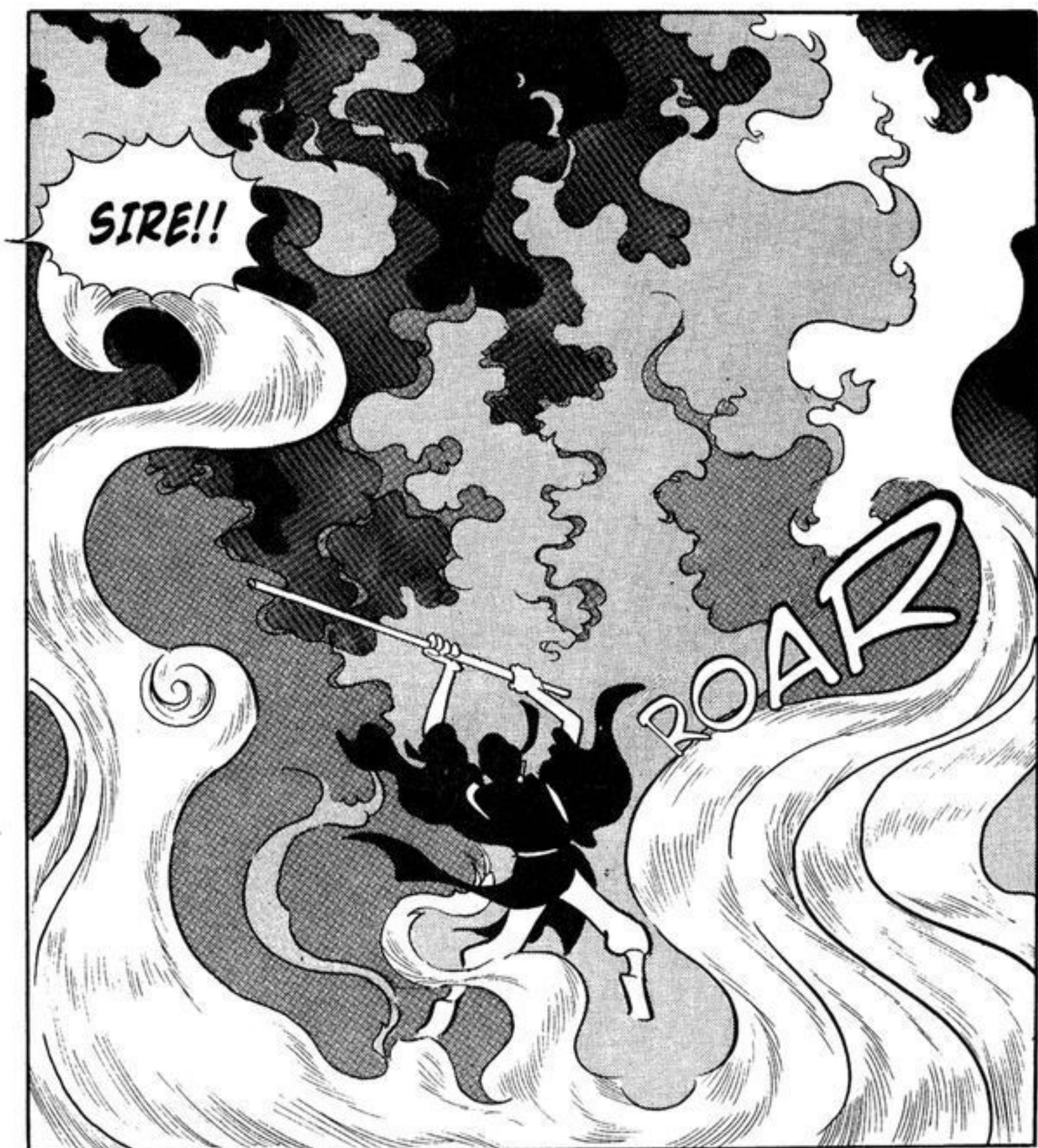


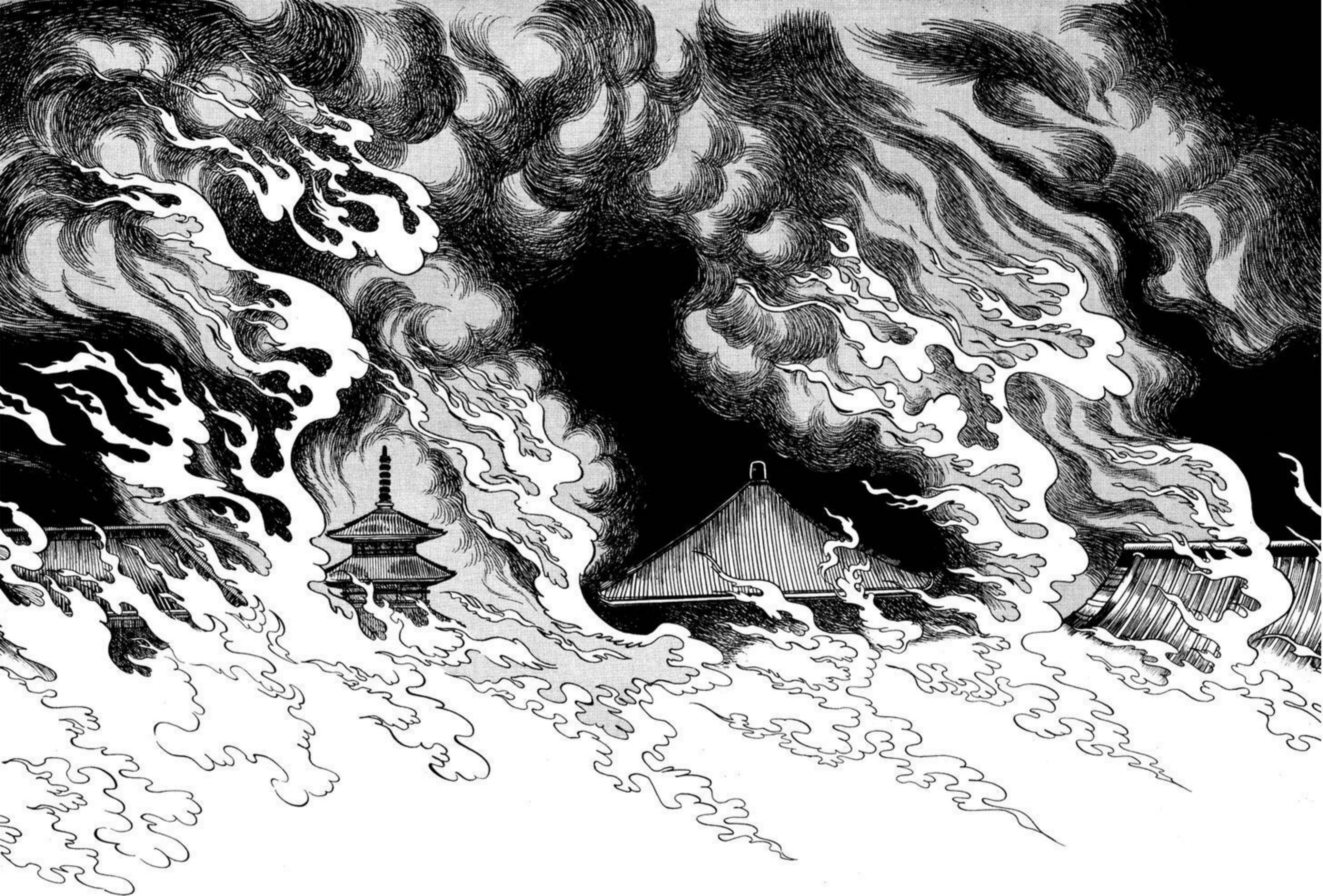


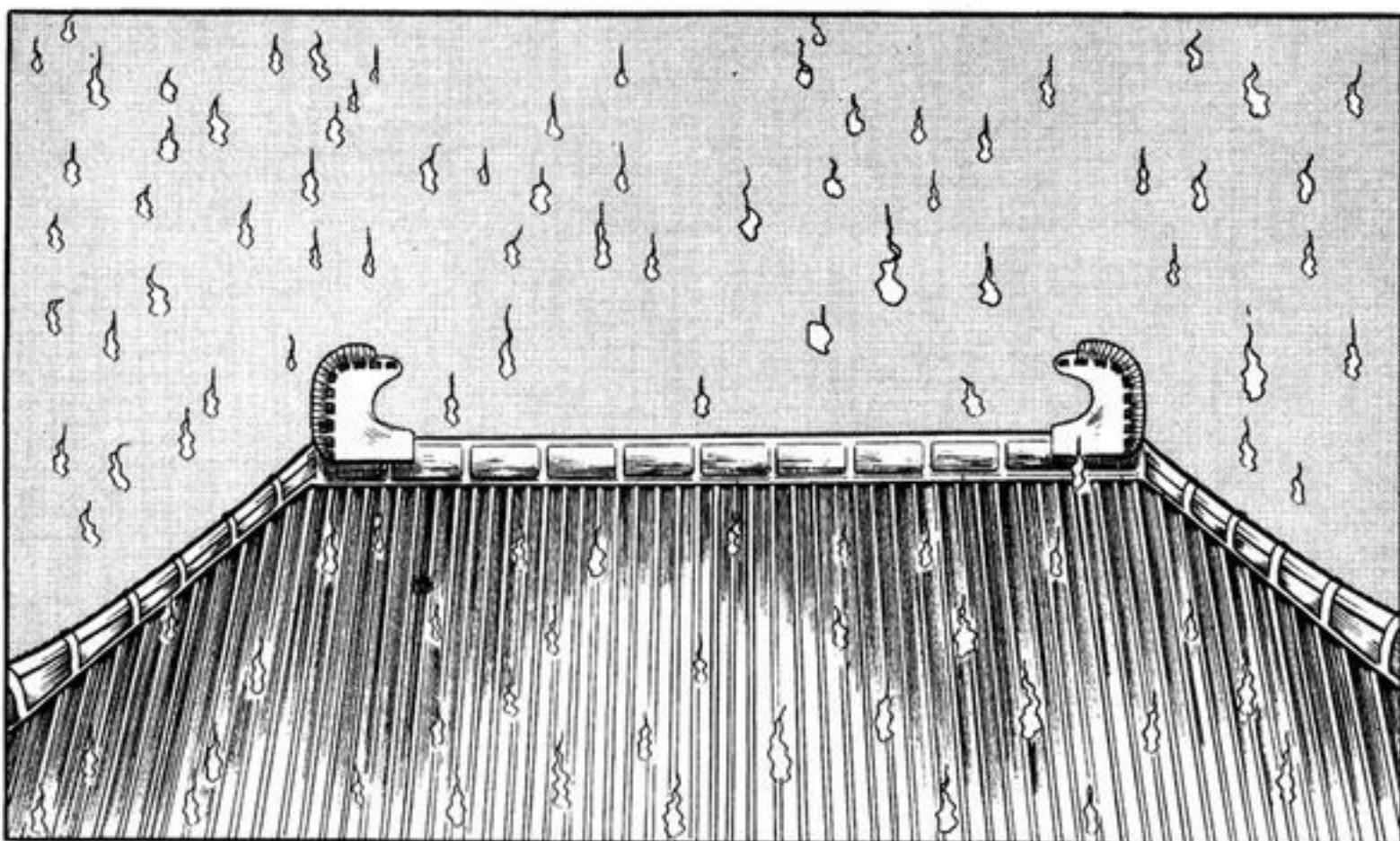
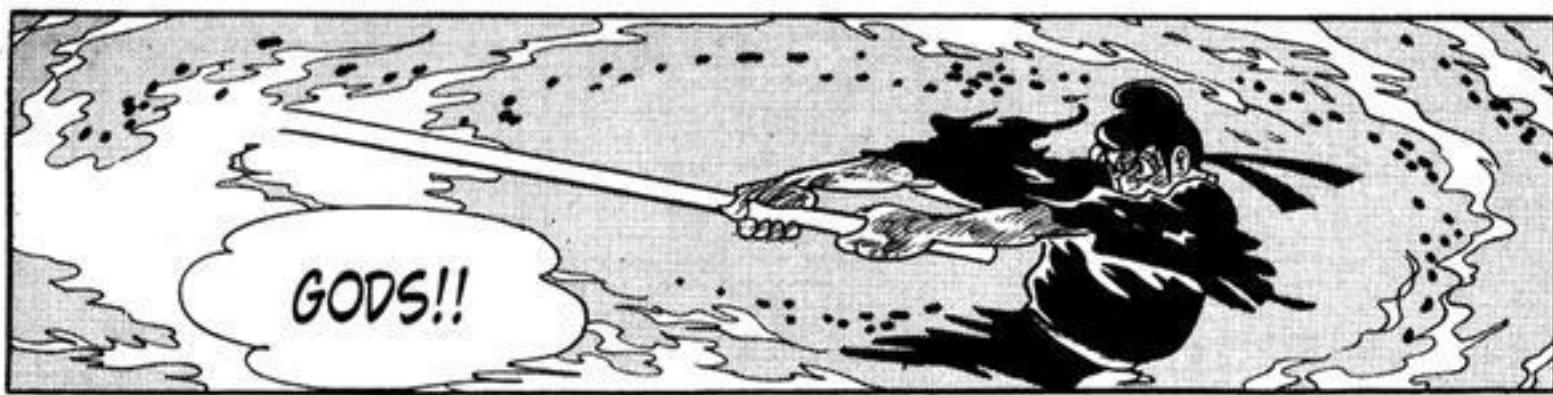


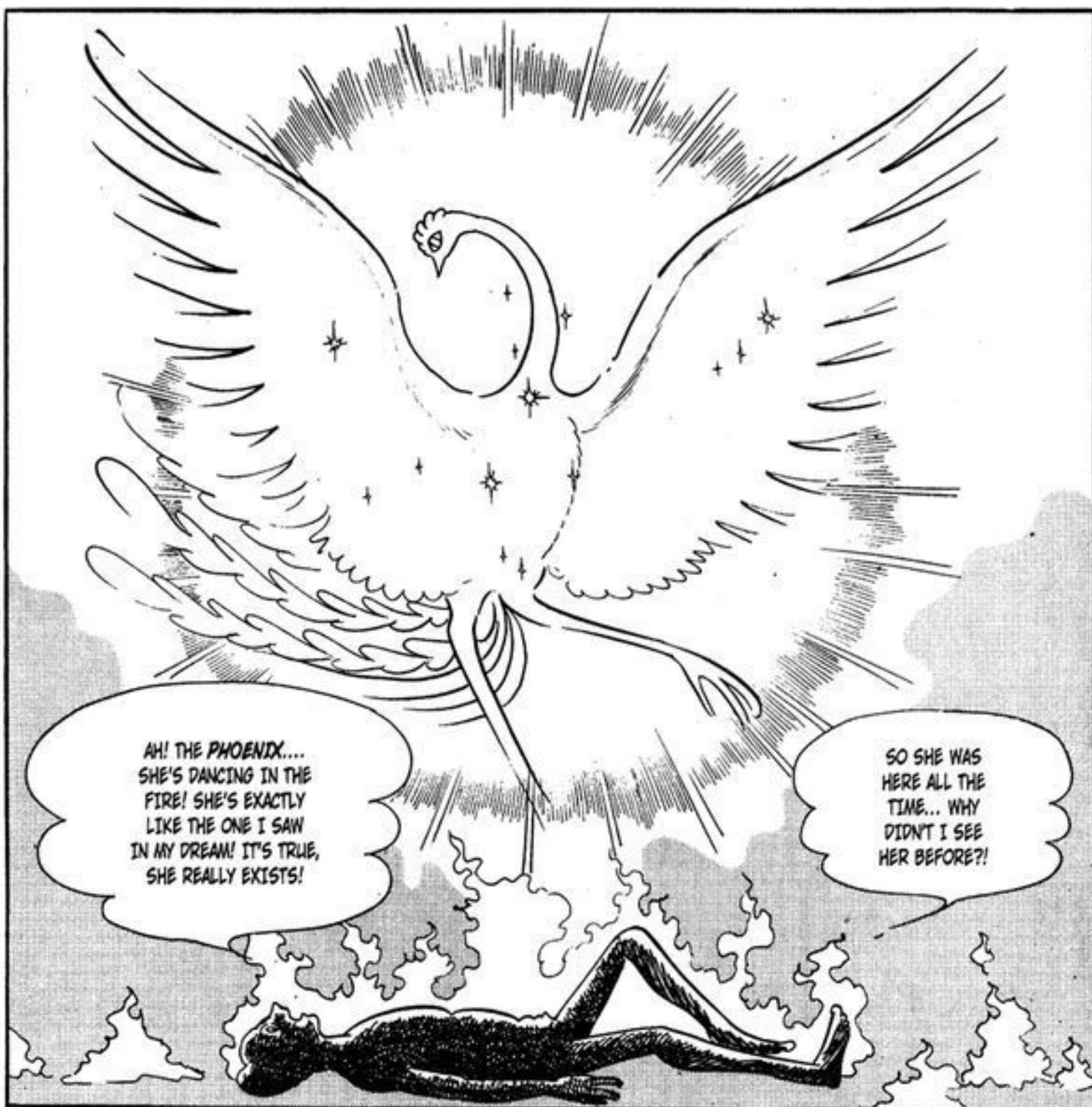


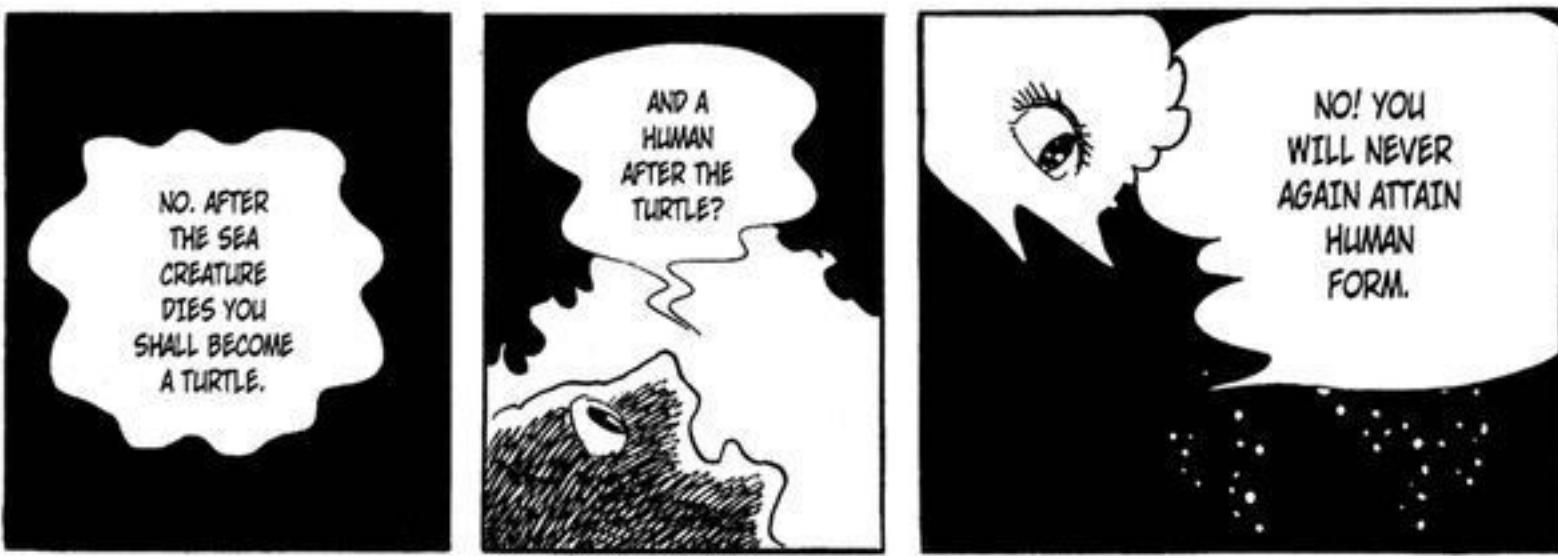
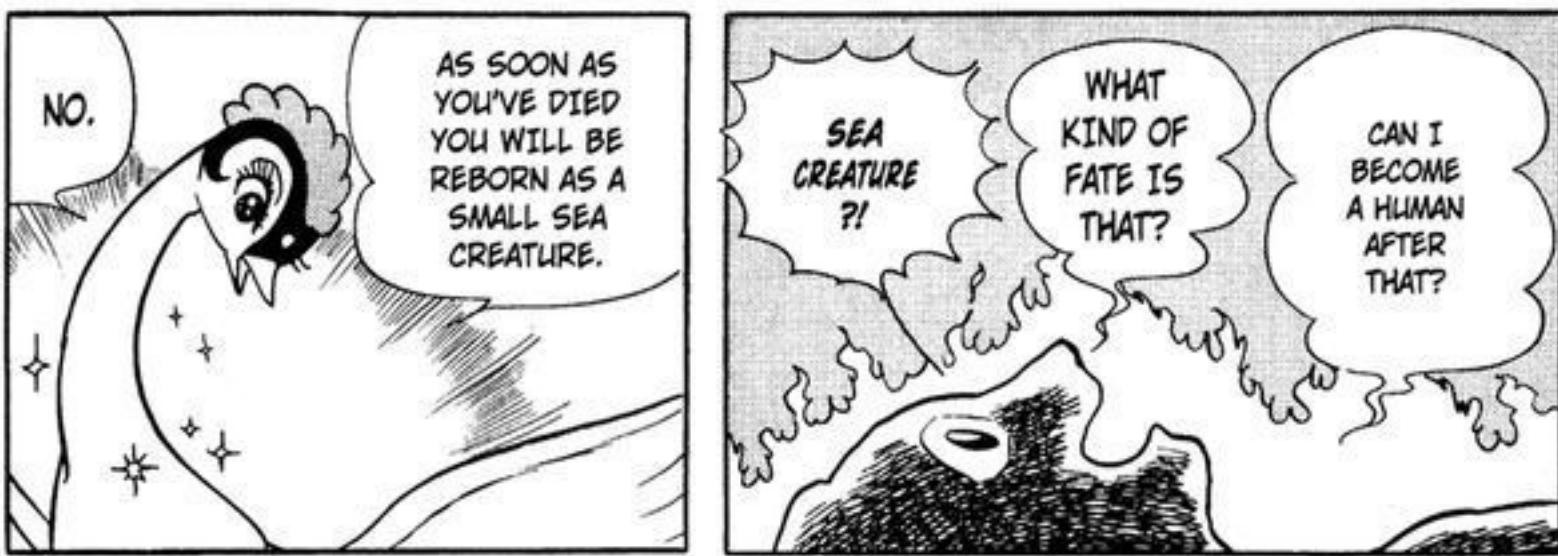






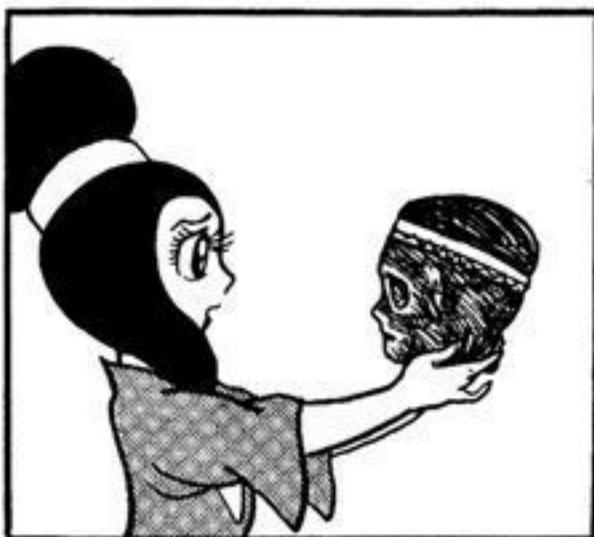
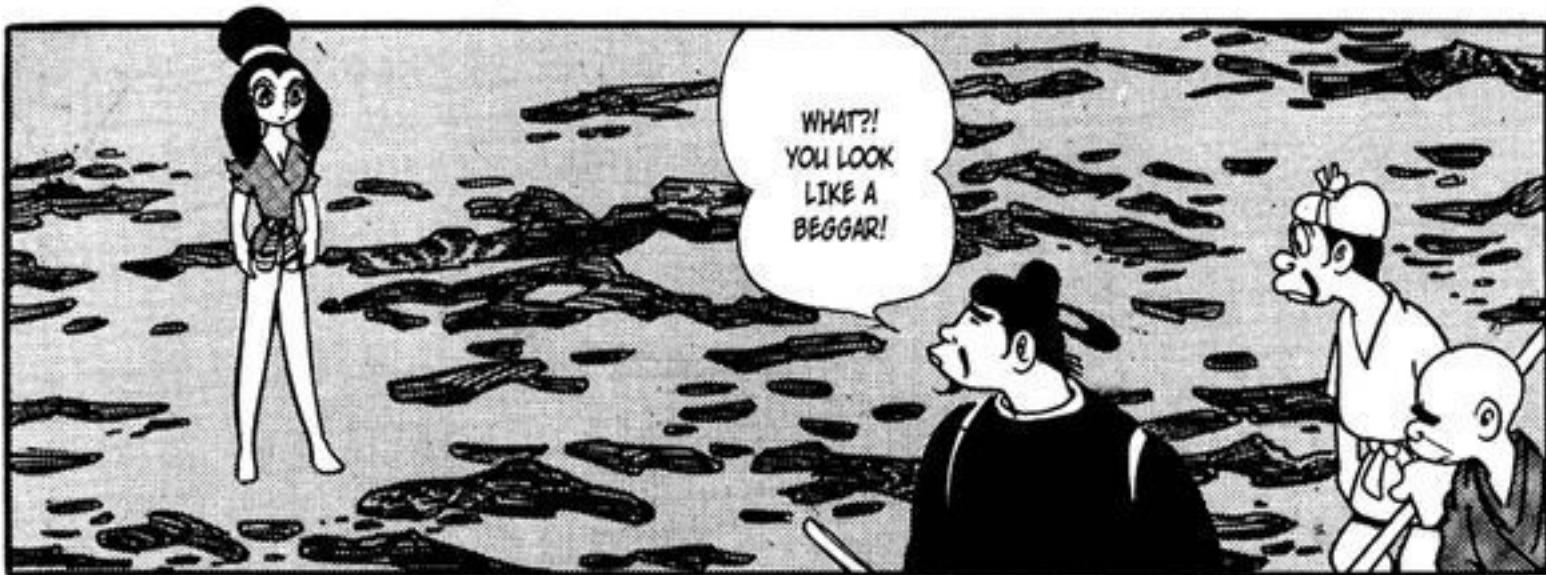




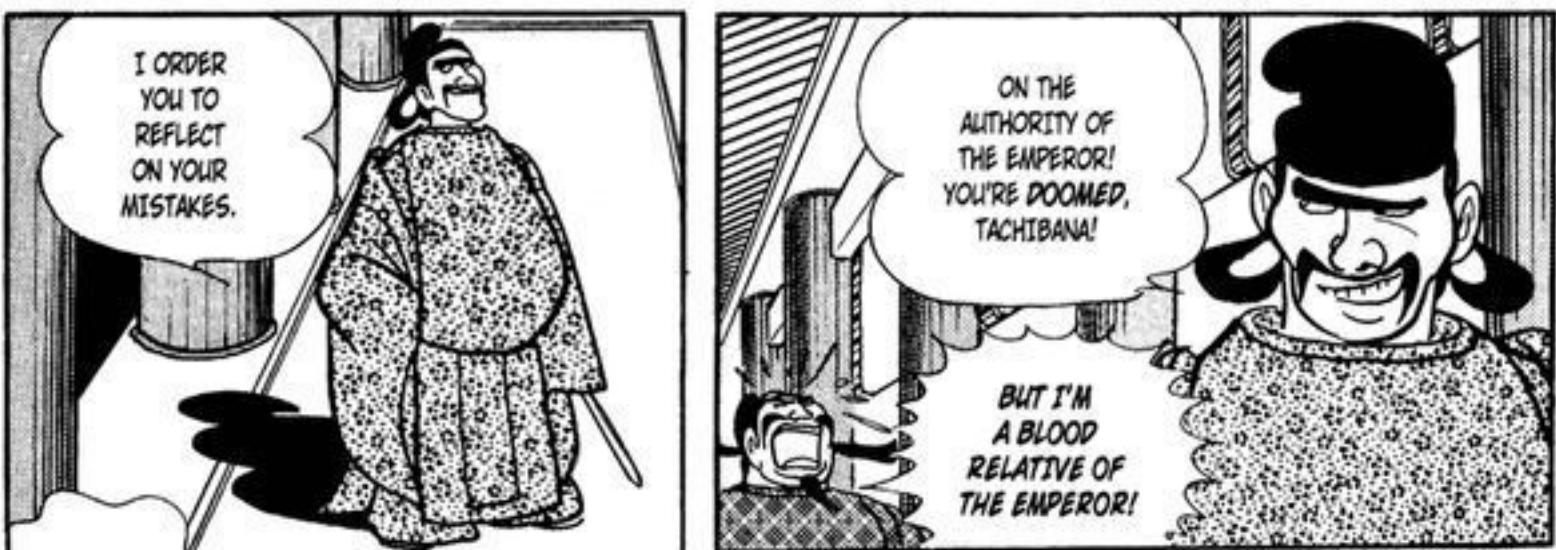
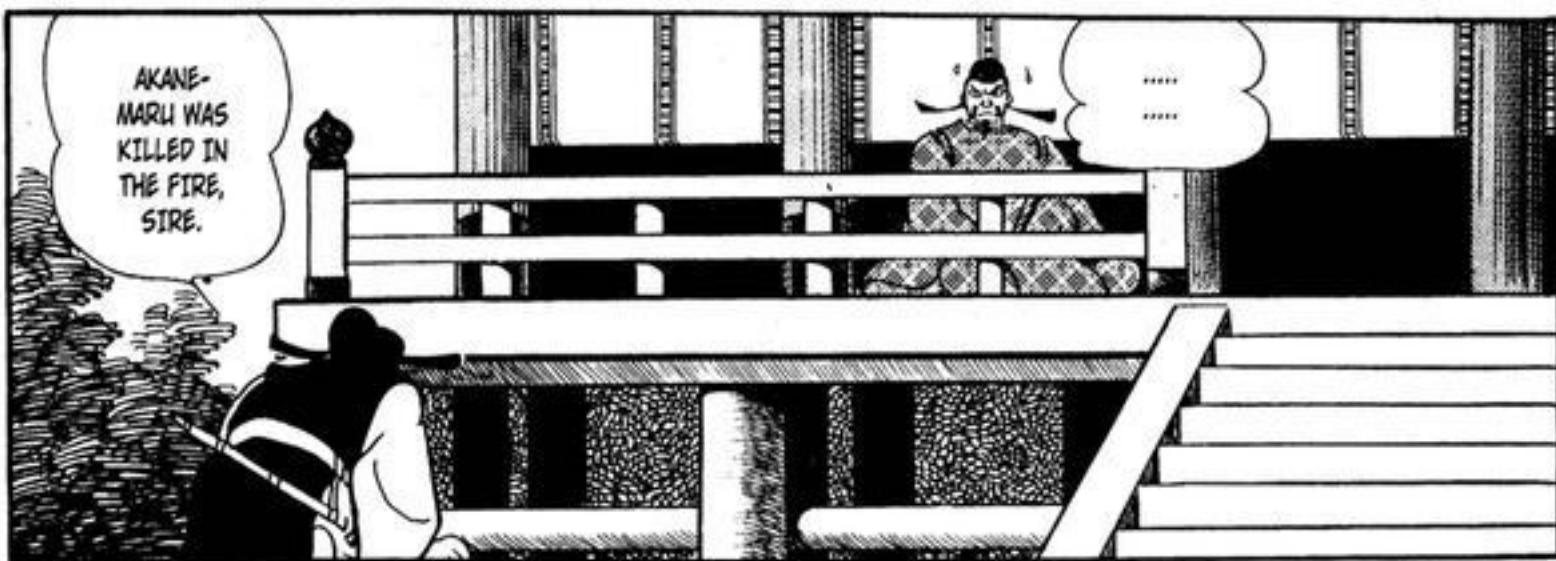


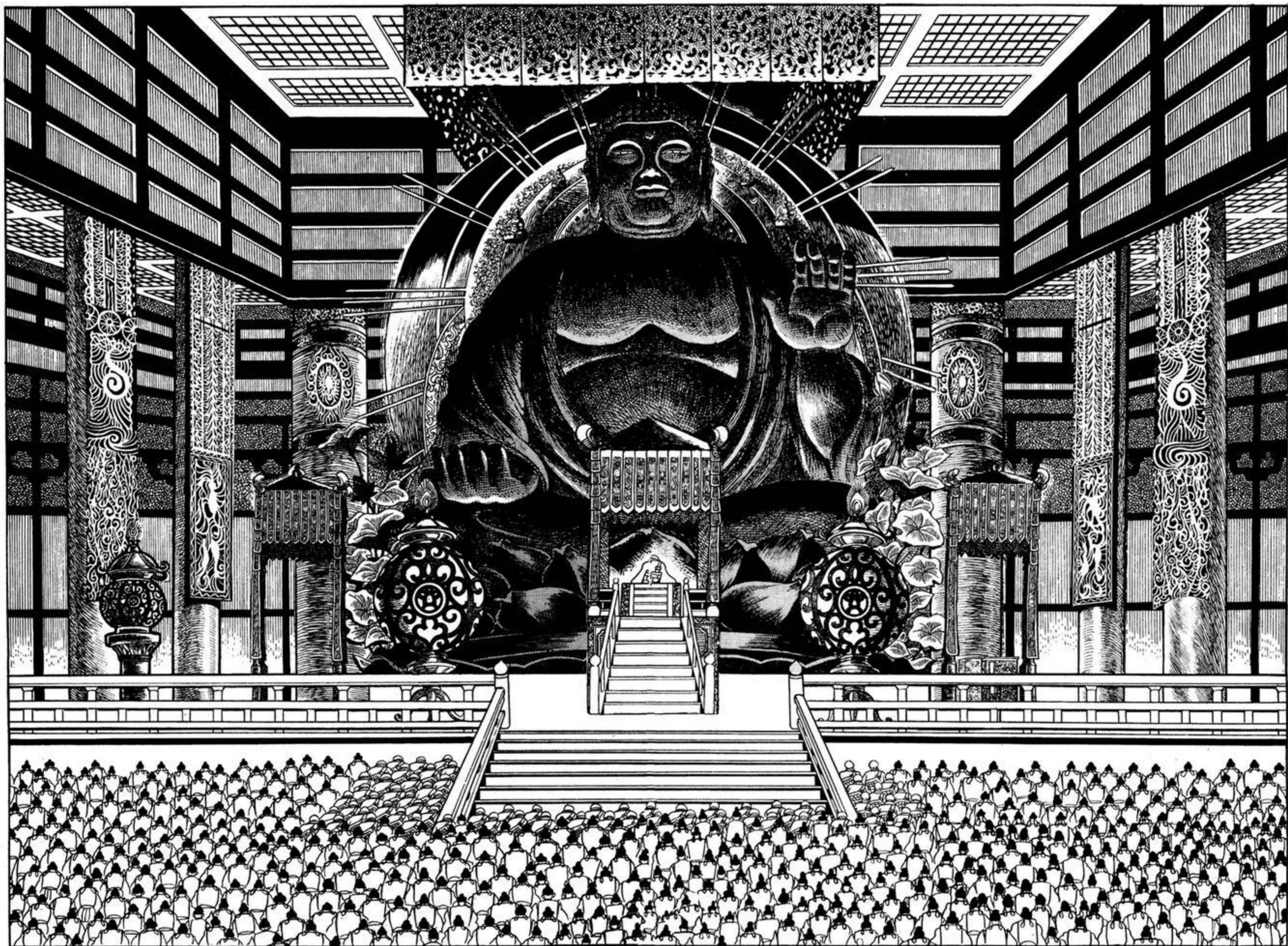




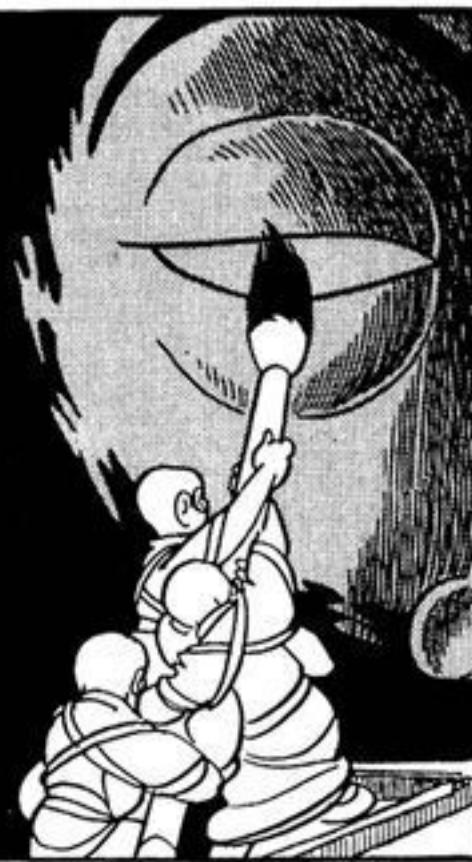






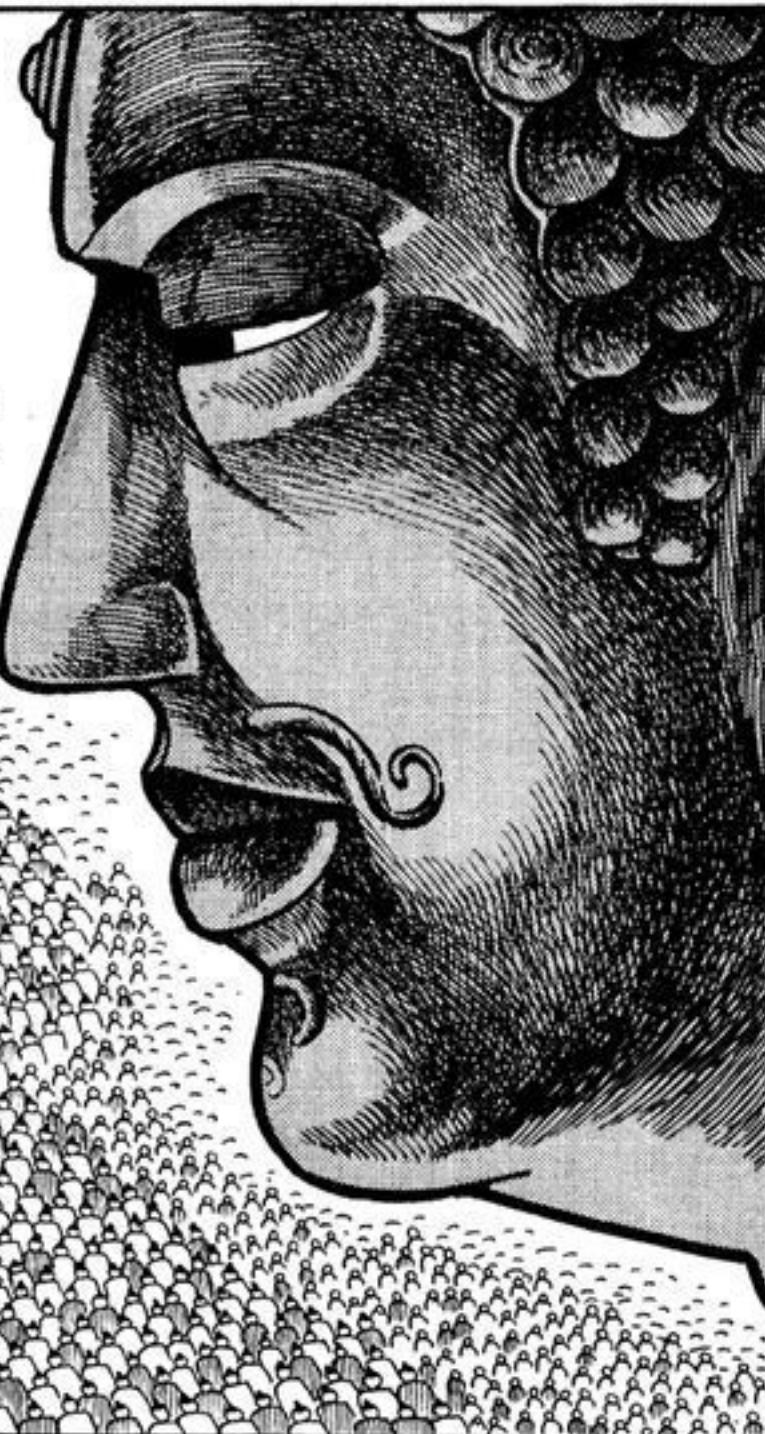


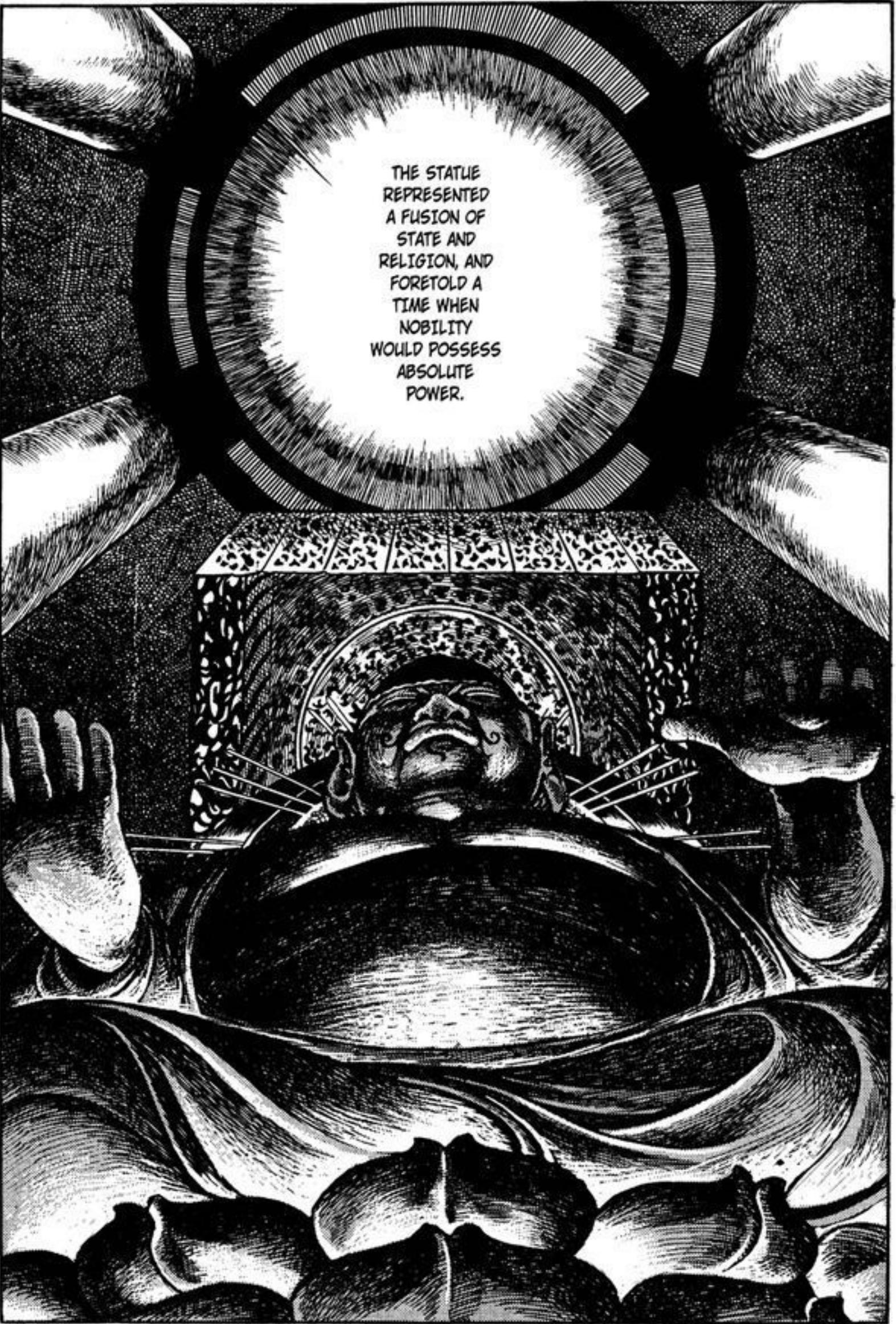
ON THE 9TH DAY
OF THE 4TH MONTH,
752 A.D., THE
CEREMONY OF THE
PAINTING IN THE
BUDDHA'S EYES TO
COMMEMORATE
COMPLETION OF THE
STATUE WAS ATTENDED
BY THE CLOISTERED*
EMPEROR SHOMU, HIS
HEIR EMPEROR KOKEN,
AND THE FORMER
EMPERESS KOMEI, AND
30,000 BUDDHIST
MONKS AND SCHOLARS.
IT WAS, ULTIMATELY,
AN EXERCISE IN
NATIONALISM.



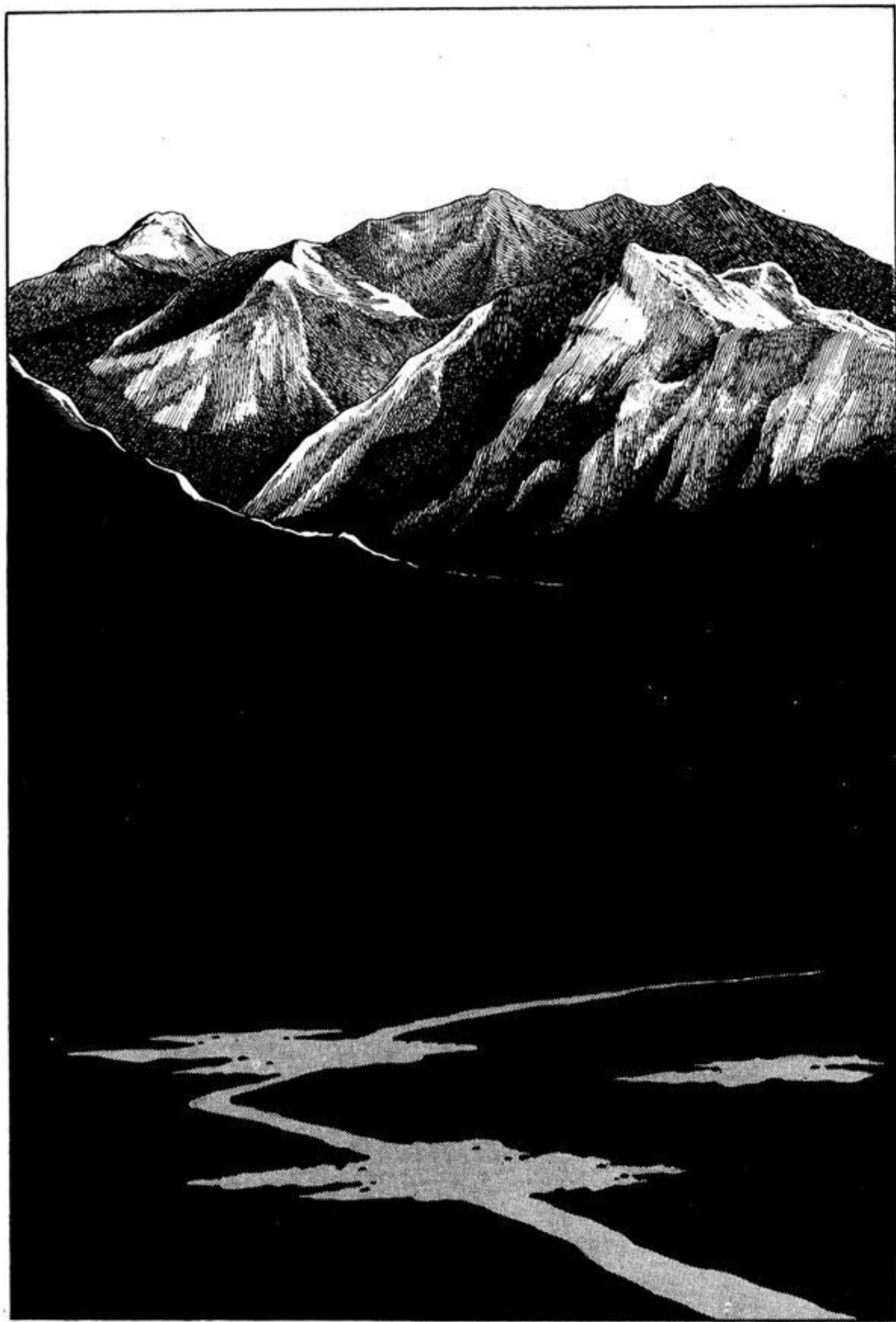
*REFERS TO AN EMPEROR WHO HAS ABDICATED HIS THRONE.

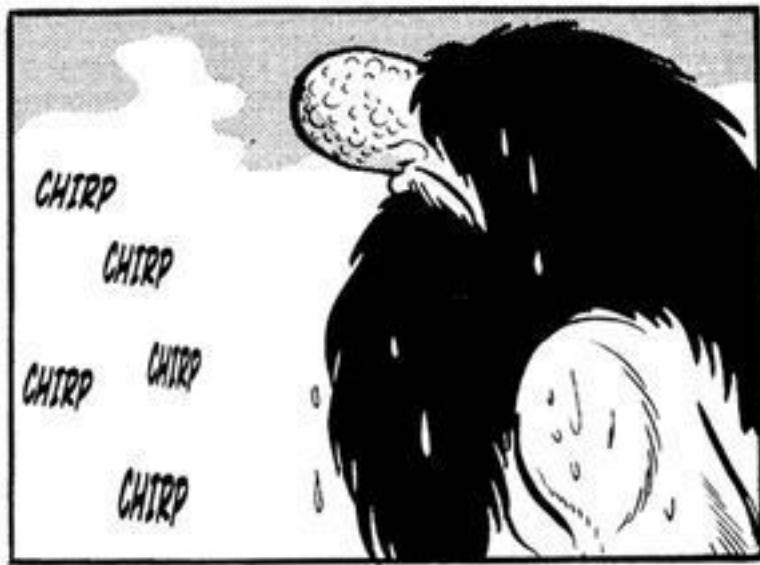
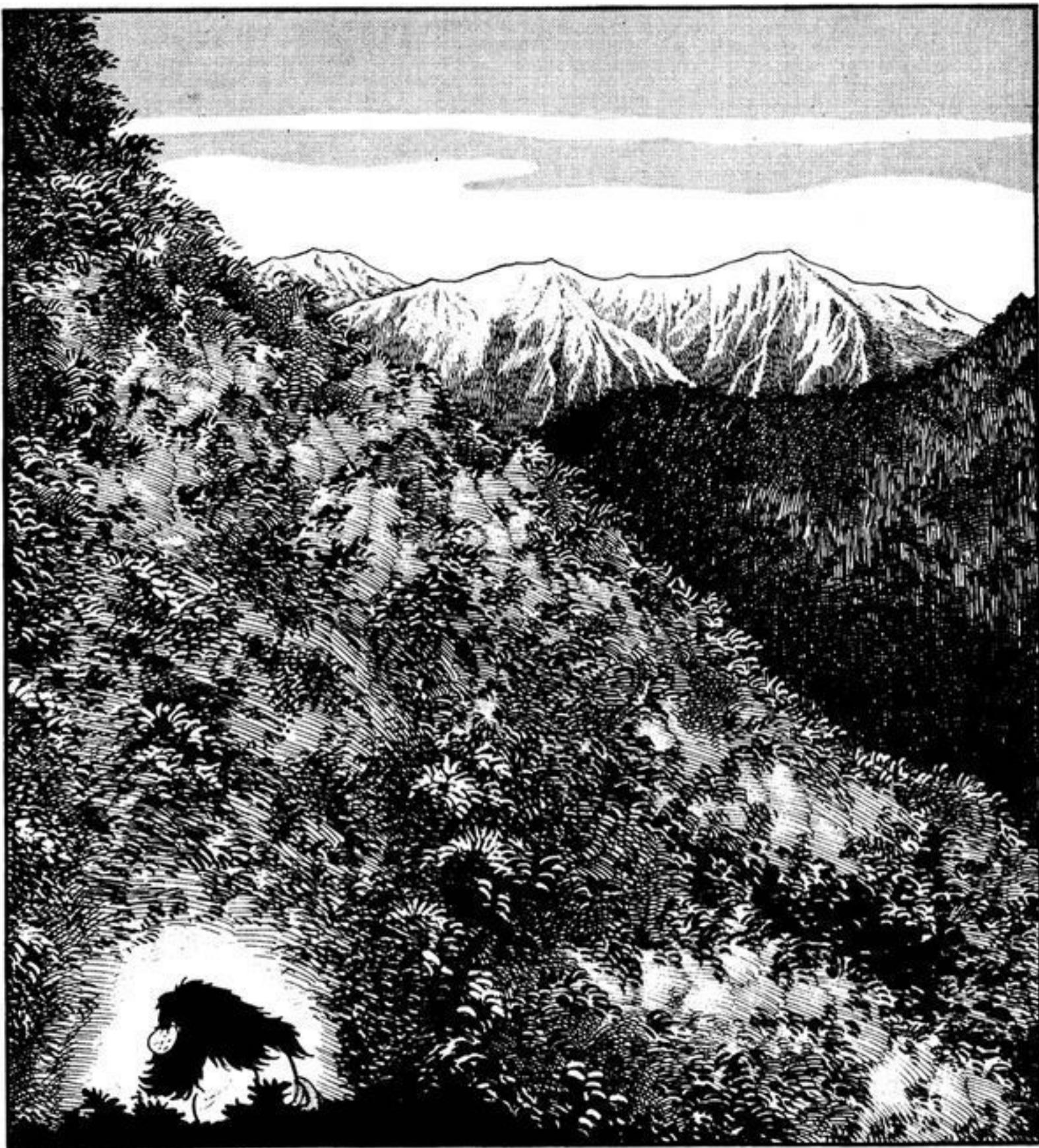
WITH HIS
NEW EYES, THE
BUDDHA APPEARED
TO GLARE AT THE
ASSEMBLED MASSES
LIKE A DARUMA
DOLL ON
ELECTION DAY.*

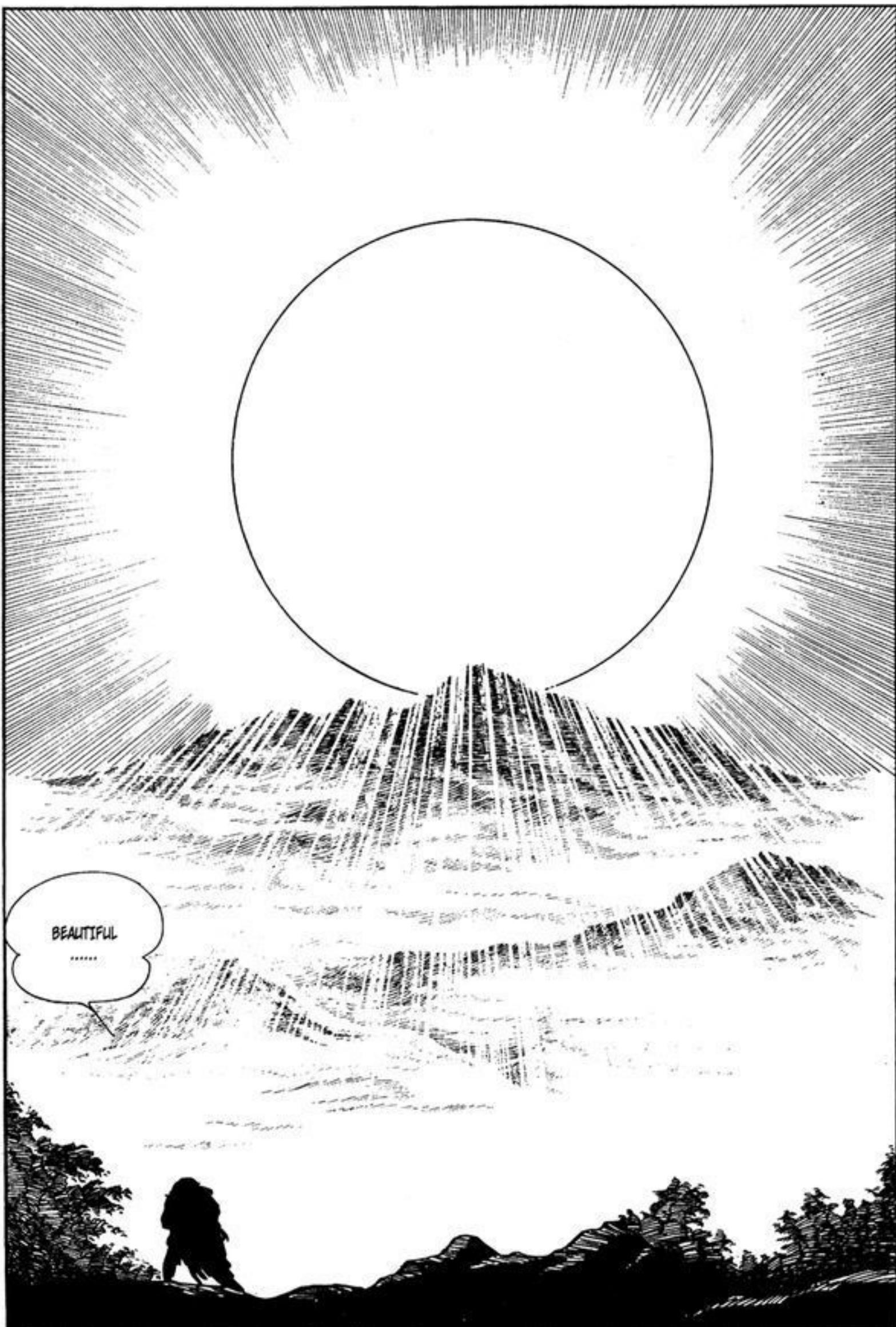


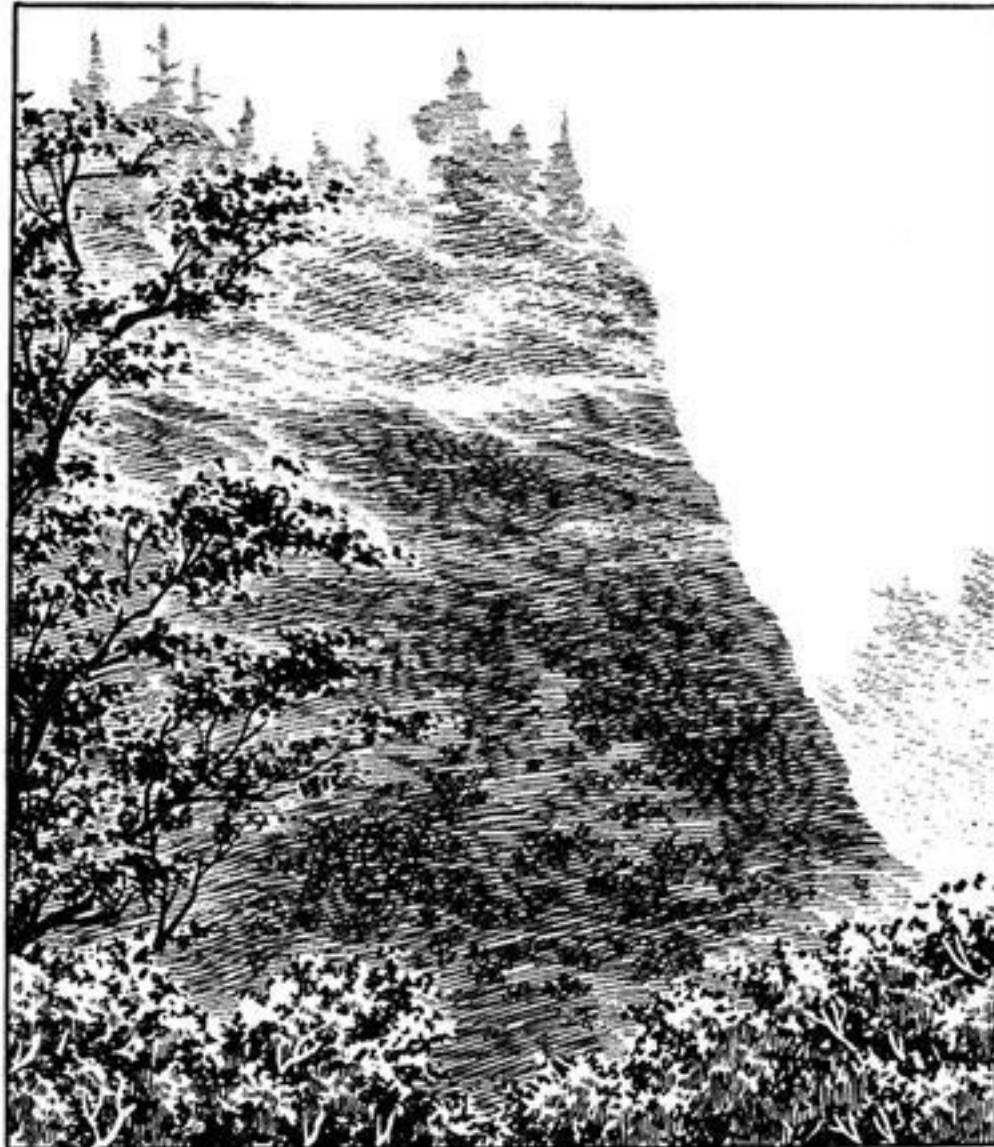


THE STATUE
REPRESENTED
A FUSION OF
STATE AND
RELIGION, AND
FORETOLD A
TIME WHEN
NOBILITY
WOULD POSSESS
ABSOLUTE
POWER.











WHY DO
I CRY
NOW?

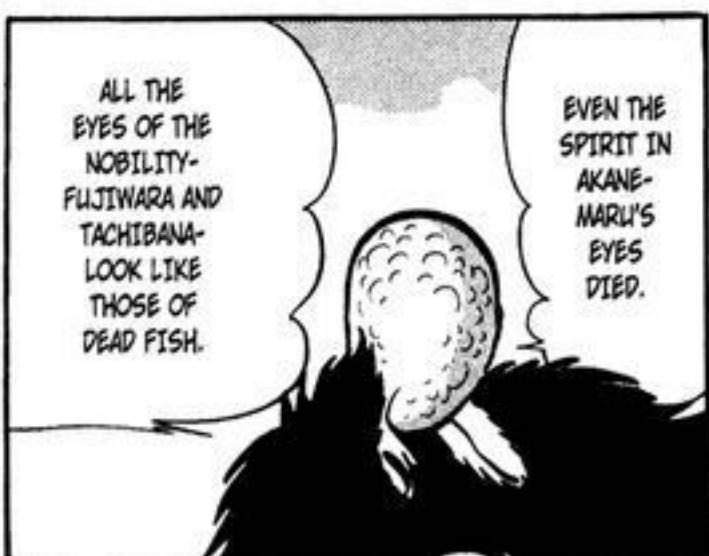
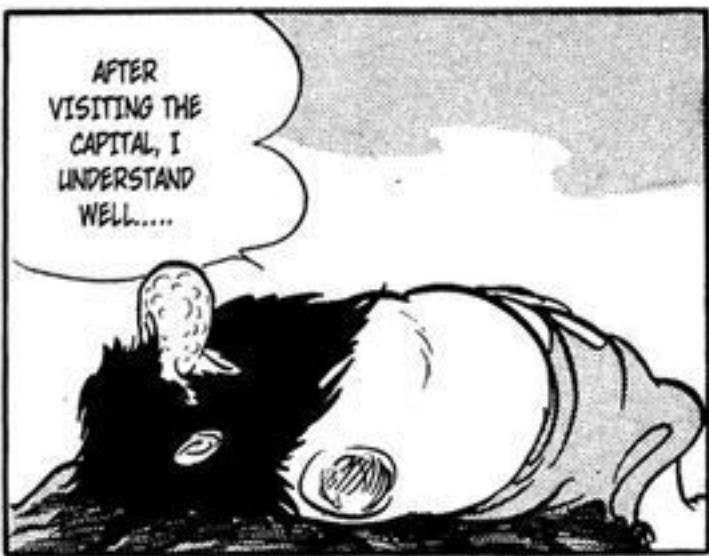
ALIVE!
THAT'S
WHY!

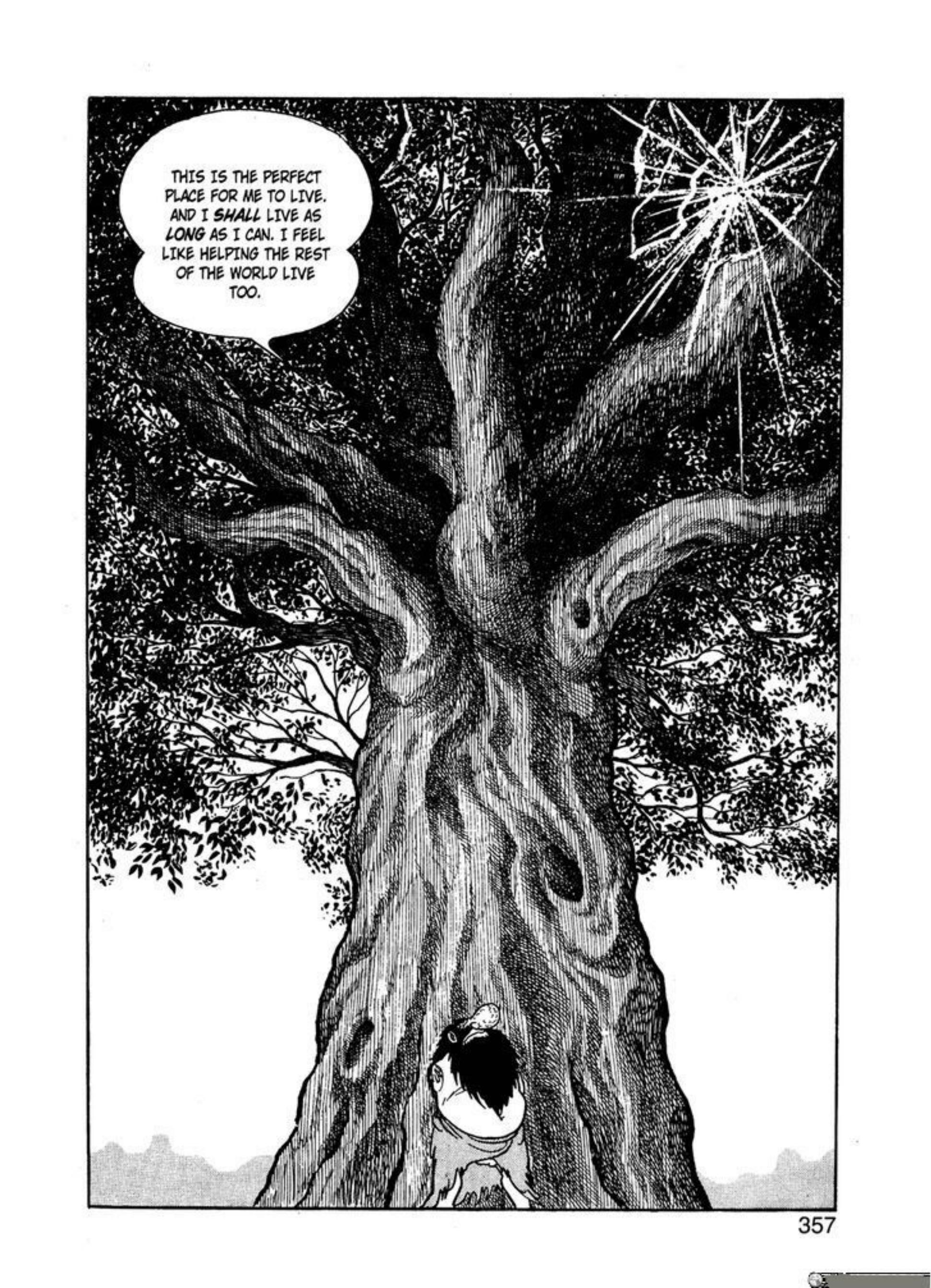
WHY IS
THE WORLD
SO
BEAUTIFUL?

BECAUSE
HERE...
EVERYTHING
IS ALIVE!



ALL THIS
LIFE IN THE
MIDST OF A
DRAUGHT!

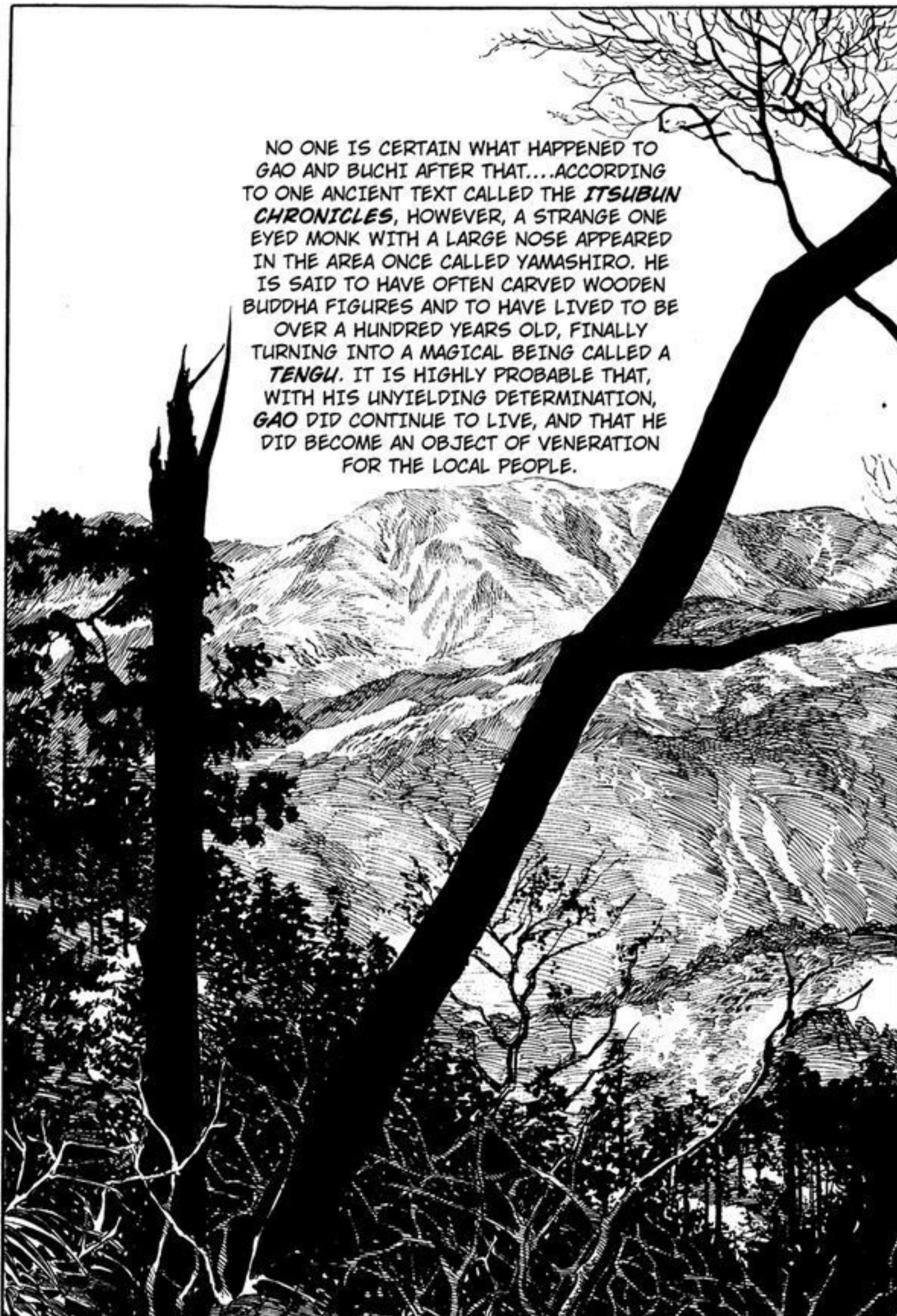




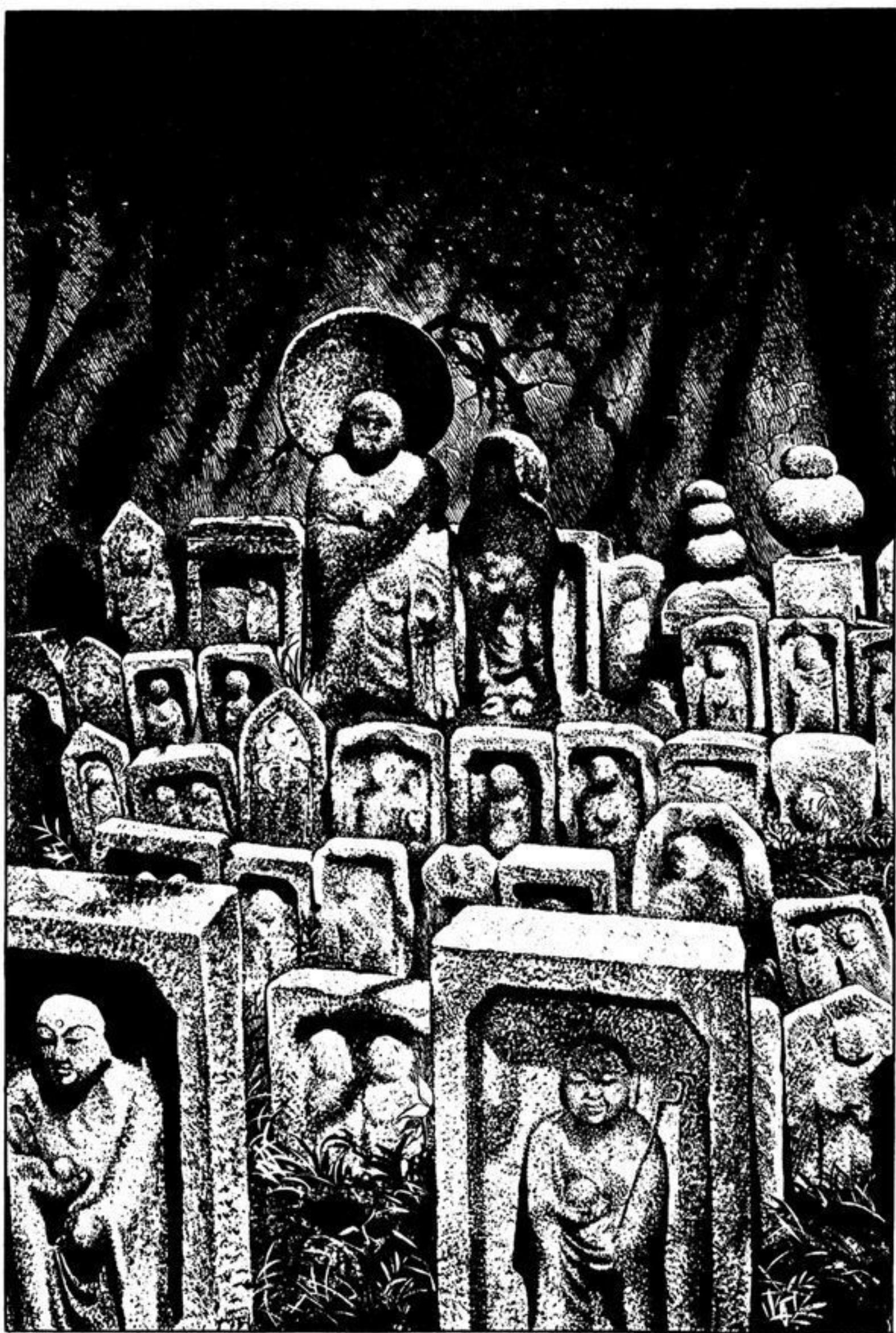
THIS IS THE PERFECT
PLACE FOR ME TO LIVE.
AND I SHALL LIVE AS
LONG AS I CAN. I FEEL
LIKE HELPING THE REST
OF THE WORLD LIVE
TOO.







NO ONE IS CERTAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO GAO AND BUCHI AFTER THAT....ACCORDING TO ONE ANCIENT TEXT CALLED THE *ITSUBUN CHRONICLES*, HOWEVER, A STRANGE ONE EYED MONK WITH A LARGE NOSE APPEARED IN THE AREA ONCE CALLED YAMASHIRO. HE IS SAID TO HAVE OFTEN CARVED WOODEN BUDDHA FIGURES AND TO HAVE LIVED TO BE OVER A HUNDRED YEARS OLD, FINALLY TURNING INTO A MAGICAL BEING CALLED A *TENGU*. IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT, WITH HIS UNYIELDING DETERMINATION, GAO DID CONTINUE TO LIVE, AND THAT HE DID BECOME AN OBJECT OF VENERATION FOR THE LOCAL PEOPLE.





ABOUT THIS EDITION OF *PHOENIX:* *KARMA*

The twelve self-contained yet interlinked stories that compose *Phoenix* (*Hi no tori* in Japanese, literally "Firebird") is considered by many to be the summit of Osamu Tezuka's artistic achievement. Tezuka himself referred to *Phoenix* as his "life work." Painstakingly composed over a span of decades (initial versions appeared as early as 1954), serialized in a number of venues, and left incomplete with Tezuka's death in 1989, *Phoenix* represents Tezuka's ambitious attempt to push all he knew about the comics medium to address fundamental questions about existence.

All twelve stories in *Phoenix* are linked by the presence of the mythical bird, an immortal guardian of the universal lifeforce. Read in order the separate stories jump across time, alternating between a distant future and a distant past, converging on the present, with characters from one story being reincarnated in another. The existing twelve stories, totaling over three thousand pages of work, are subtitled "Dawn," "Future," "Yamato," "Space," "Karma," "Resurrection," "Robe of Feathers," "Nostalgia," "Civil War," "Life," "Strange Beings," and "Sun."

This edition, *Phoenix: Karma* is an English translation of the fifth of the twelve *Phoenix* stories. The original title for this volume is "Hou oh", which is the Chinese kanji for "Phoenix" or bird of fire. This edition is based on the translation by Dadakai, who had named the volume "Karma". This story was first serialized from August 1969 to September 1970 in the monthly magazine *COM*, which was published by Tezuka as a venue to feature work too challenging or experimental for inclusion in mainstream manga magazines. The first, second and third volume of the series, *Phoenix: Dawn*, *Phoenix: A Tale of the Future*, and *Phoenix: Yamato/Space*, respectively, were published in English by VIZ. For more information on *Phoenix* and Osamu Tezuka consult Frederik L. Schodt's excellent *Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics* and *Dreamland Japan Writings on Modern Manga*.

A Journey through Time and Space: An Overview of the Complete *Phoenix* Saga

The complete *Phoenix* saga is a story about mankind that features a historical-narrative structure unlike anything that has come before it. The first volume depicts the dawn of civilization. The second volume jumps to the far future. The setting for the third story shifts back to early history, and so on, back and forth, from past to future; the amplitude decreases as past and future converge to meet in the present.

Dawn (1967) 240-270 A.D.



The scene in the Amano Iwato myth where Himiko compares herself to Amaterasu-Oumikami and a solar eclipse occurs.

Yamato (1968-69) 320-350 A.D.



Disguised as a woman, Prince Yamato Ooguna approaches the Chieftain of the Kumaso and stabs him. As told in the Kiki myth, the prince gets the name "Takeru" from his opponent right before he dies.

Karma (Hou-ou) (1969-70) 720-752 A.D.



The complicated drama of the spirit of two Buddhist sculptors. Set in the Nara Period (710-794) during the national enterprise of the construction of the Great Buddha. Here, the Hou-ou (a Chinese myth) is the Phoenix.

Robe of Feathers (1971) 937-941 A.D.



A sci-fi version of the Hagiromon Legend of Miho no Matsubara in Enshu (modern day Shizuoka). Set during Taira no Masakado's rebellion which occurred during the Heian Period (898-1185).

The spirit of a woman swimming in the ocean is captured by the beauty of the white sand and green pine.

The spirit of a fisherman is bewitched by the beauty of the woman and he hides her clothes...

Civil War (1978-80) 1172-1189 A.D.



The time of the Genpei Kassen (War between the Taira and the Genji) after the fall of the Heishi (Taira Clan). Using the *Heike Monogatari* and *Gikeiki* as a backdrop, this story depicts "combat" as the fate of living things.

Kiso Yoshinaka defeats the Heishi and takes control of the capital. He cuts down the famous monk Myoun. He came to the capital because he is after the Phoenix.

Strange Beings (1981) 1468-1498 A.D.



The Sengoku Period (1482-1558). Sakonnosuke, the heir of General Yagi Iemasa, cuts down the nun, Yaobikuni, who seems to be 800 years old. But she doesn't realize the true relationship between herself and the nun.

The banner bearer is saying that "now" is the beginning of the Sengoku Wars and they are in the middle of the Dunnin Rebellion. In other words, they are in a time before Sakonnosuke was born!

Sun (1986-88) 663-672 A.D.



The story begins after the defeat of the Japan-Kudara alliance at Hokusukinoe and Japan's withdraw from the Korean peninsula, and ends with the struggle for the imperial throne during the Jinshin Rebellion.

Emperor Kobun, formerly called Otomo no Miko, is the cousin of Takachi no Miko, who is the son of Oama no Miko.

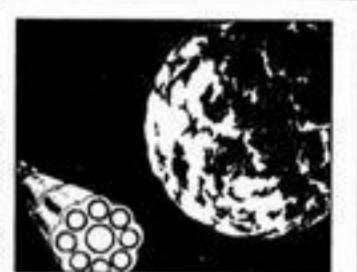
Future (1967-68) 3404 A.D.-infinity



The end of the future. Mankind is in decline and has become very conservative. The earth is run down and faces devastation. Eventually a nuclear war breaks out causing the end of everything.

The Yamato Central Main Building Megalopolis. Yamato is one of the five remaining underground cities of mankind.

Universe (1969) 2577 A.D.



In Orion, a sub-light speed rocket heading towards Earth crashes into a meteorite. The ship becomes unable to fly and four people manage to escape, including Saruta and Nana.

Each of the passengers escapes in an individual escape pod. However, the pods only have enough food for half a year and enough air for a year and a half. Possibilities of survival are...

Resurrection (1970-71) 2482-3344 A.D.



In the year 3344, Prof. Saruta lands on the moon. He meets and acquires Robita in his final form. Spanning 860 years, the end of this episode goes beyond *Universe* and close to the beginning of *Future*.

Robita and this rocket also make appearances in *Future*, where Robita stops Rock and then gets shot by him.

Nostalgia (1976-78) Indeterminate (approx. 25th century)



A Japanese woman named Romy establishes a civilization and history for the formerly uninhabited planet, Eden-17. Her husband dies an unnatural death, but the life she carries inside her...

The spaceship is headed for Eden-17. The shiny object in the foreground is its sun. The planet is surrounded by a revolving ring of space dust held there by gravity.

Life (1980) 2155-2170 A.D.



Human clones are being created. It's all for high ratings and a public-killing TV game show called *Clone Man Hunt*.

Animal clones were created for food. Human clones are created for a TV show—the cloning company president speaks as a sponsor. A terrifying plan for a TV show!

Sun (1986-88) 2008 A.D.



The "Light Tribe" acquired the Phoenix in space. However, they turn it into an icon and come to control society through religion. Non-believers are called "shadows" and are chased out to live underground.

The head temple of the "Light Tribe." A young shadow boy named Suguru endeavors to climb the great tower and steal the Phoenix.